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Of Oscar De La Hoya

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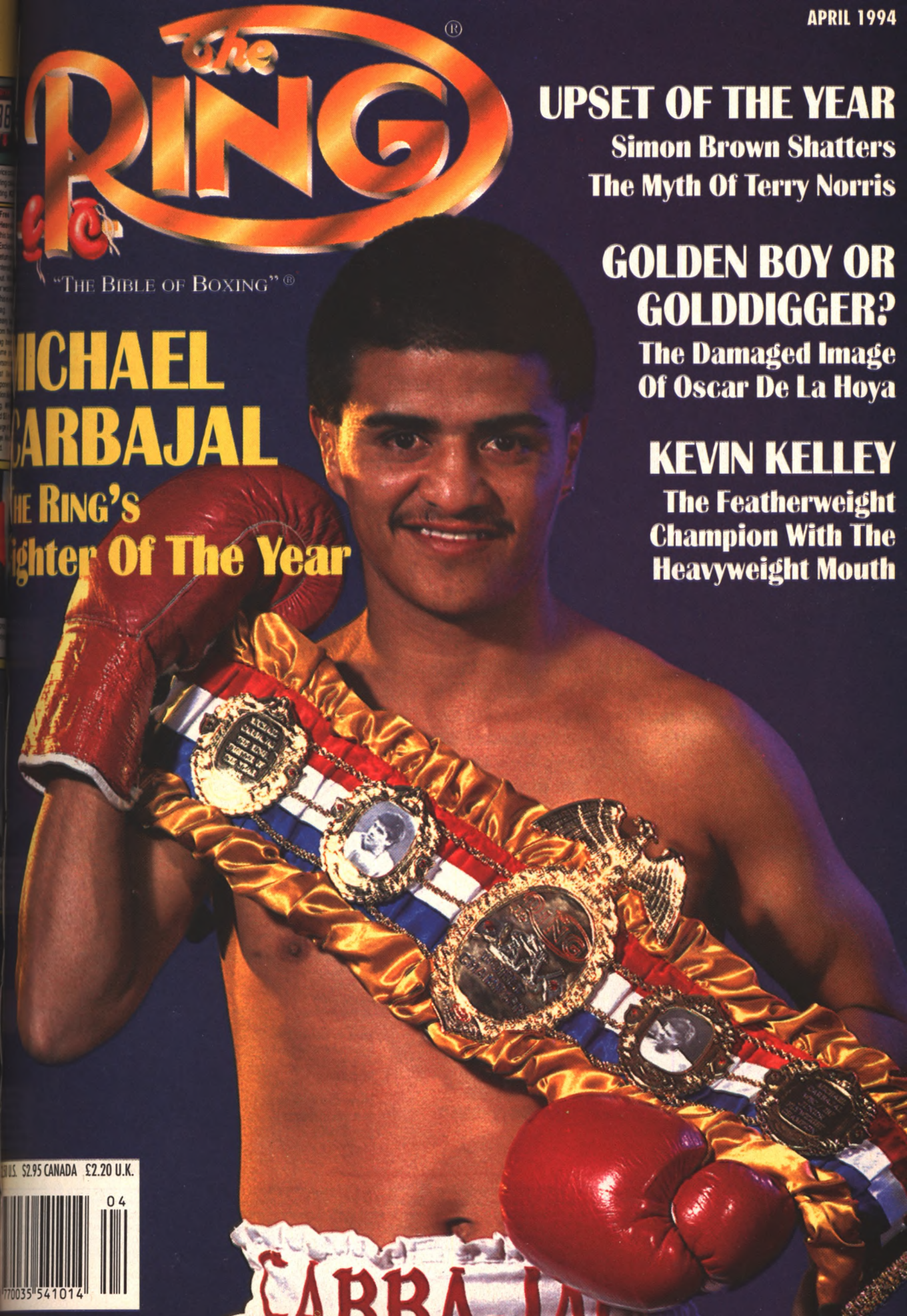
The Featherweight
Champion With The
Heavyweight Mouth

ICHAEL
ARBAJAL
HE RING'S
ighter Of The Year



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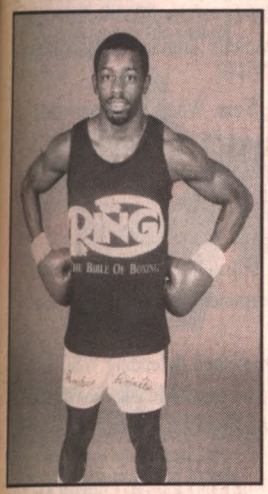

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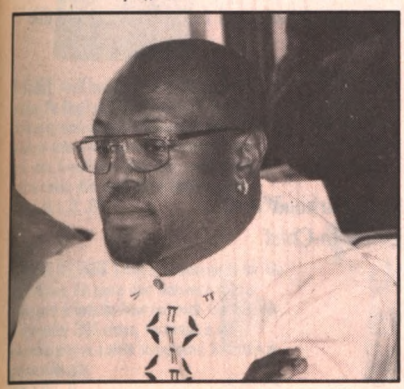

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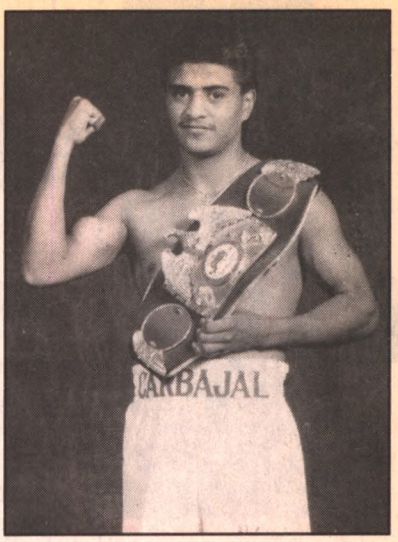

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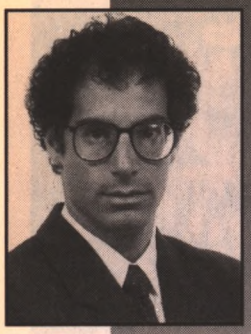


Ringside

In 1993, WBC welterweight champion Pernell Whitaker established himself as the world's best fighter by defeating a pair of pound-for-pound perennials, Buddy McGirt and Julio Cesar Chavez. (I'm choosing to ignore the judges' cards. You should, too.) How, then, can THE RING pick WBC/IBF junior flyweight champion Michael Carbajal as Fighter of the Year? Obviously, a strong argument can be made for Whitaker. In fact, "Sweet Pea" was selected Fighter of the Year in *KO*, THE RING'S sister publication. But Carbajal's emergence as a legitimate superstar has changed the way boxing fans, and a good portion of insiders, view the lighter weights. Flyweights are fighters, too, and in most cases, they make for better fights than heavyweights. I won't argue that Whitaker is the best in the game, but you can't argue that Carbajal is the most exciting.

Who knows, without Carbajal's success, HBO might never have given featherweight Kevin Kelley the opportunity to lobby for the lighter weights by dethroning Goyo Vargas. The doors are now wide open for flyweights, banties, and feathers, as evidenced by Carbajal's $1-million purse for his rematch with Gonzalez. Here's to hoping that for the remainder of the '90s, the little guys keep coming up big.

In addition to Whitaker, three fighters deserve mention. Evander Holyfield willed his way to regaining the heavyweight title; the previously unknown Zack Padilla punched his way toward the top of the junior welterweight division by winning one thrilling fight after another; and Puerto Rico's 20-year-old Felix Trinidad exploded to the welterweight title.

Unlike Fighter of the Year, there was an overwhelming choice for Fight of the Year. When Bob Arum made a title unification bout between Carbajal and WBC champion Gonzalez, insiders feared he had waited too long. In 1991 and '92, Carbajal had won six consecutive bouts on points, which a junior flyweight with superstar aspirations cannot afford to do. And while Gonzalez was still rated among the most devastating punchers in boxing, a 1990 kayo loss to Rolando Pascua had raised questions about his chin and heart. As it turned out, the timing couldn't have been better. On March 13, the 108-pounders engaged in a brutal slugfest that included everything you'd ever want: significance, intensity, changes in momentum, powerpunching, knockdowns, and a sensational ending.

The Upset of the Year didn't come until December, when Simon Brown demolished defending WBC super welterweight champion Terry Norris. Which was the fighter who was supposed to be shot? Michael Bentt's kayo of Tommy Morrison was a strong runner-up, but also the type of upset that in retrospect seems only a mild surprise.

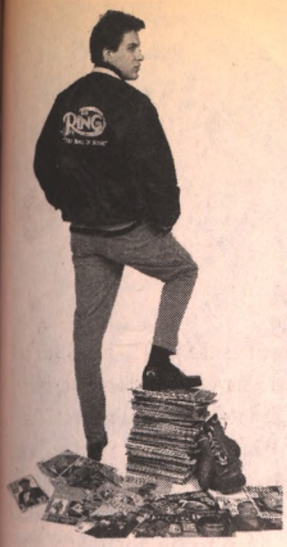
There are several candidates for Knockout of the Year: Gerald McClellan KO 5 Julian Jackson, Carbajal KO 7 Kwang Sun Kim, Bentt KO 1 Morrison, Calvin Grove KO 7 Jeff Fenech, and Mike Dixon KO 2 Alex Garcia. For shock value, the kayos registered by Bentt, Grove, and Dixon were particularly noteworthy.

The most publicized round of the year, Holyfield-Riddick Bowe round seven, wasn't the best of the year. That distinction belongs to Terry Norris-Troy Waters round two, during which Norris, seemingly en route to a blowout victory, suddenly needed to lift himself off the canvas and trade toe to toe in order to regain control.

In summation, 1993 was a pretty good year. In 1994, I'm hoping for Bowe-Lennox Lewis, James Toney-Roy Jones, Oscar De La Hoya-Genaro Hernandez, Orlando Canizales-Junior Jones, and two or three more title unification matches.

As Gordon Gekko said in *Wall Street*, greed is good.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief



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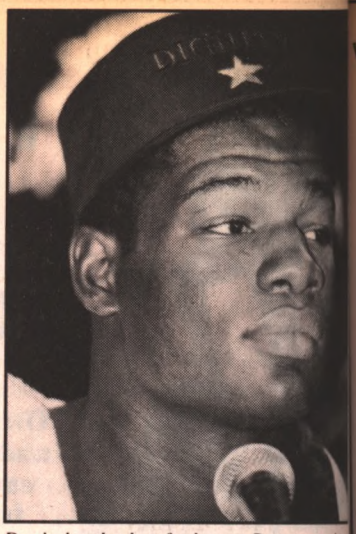

Don't let the hat fool you: Bowe was sloppy in preparing for the Holyfield rematch.

BOWE IS AN EMBARRASSMENT

Editor-In-Chief Steve Farhood seems to be Riddick Bowe's biggest fan. In the "State Of The Game" issue (January 1994), Farhood wrote, "... on November 6, the retired, unretired Evander Holyfield has been rematched with Bowe. At least Hammer's excited." Is he a jerk? How could he say that about Evander?

Farhood has also said that Bowe would beat Mike Tyson, which leads me to believe that he's not that bright. Does he honestly think a 249-pound "Beer Belly" Bowe could beat quite possibly the greatest heavyweight ever?

I'm not trying to insult Farhood, whom I have a lot of respect for. It's just that Bowe, whose big wins have come against the likes of Jesse Ferguson and Michael Dokes, isn't all that good.

T. DION
Lawrence, MA

HEAVYWEIGHT PRETENDERS

I couldn't contain my delight when, in the space of a week, America's heavyweight heroes, Tommy Morrison and Riddick Bowe, were shown up as the average fighters they are. Morrison's talk of bouncing back is just that—talk. However hard he trains, whatever skills he gains, he'll never have a chin because that can't be taught. I doubt if even the monumentally gullible U.S. public will buy Morrison's third coming.

As for Bowe, he's bound to come back, and in shape he may even be able to beat that midget Evander Holyfield. However, this does not alter the fact that both Bowe and Holyfield are easy to hit. Lennox Lewis will knock both of them out with equal ease.

NICK BANKES
Manchester, England

Has the press been unfair to Chavez? Reader William Lopez believes that following Chavez' unpopular draw with Pernell Whitaker, the media has "tortured" him.

HAIL JULIO

I wish every boxing magazine would give Julio Cesar Chavez his just due. Chavez is being tortured by the press because, for the first time, he didn't perform with the greatness we have become accustomed to. The press has always been jealous of the fact that Chavez is from Mexico, and not the U.S.

Why all the raves for Pernell Whitaker, despite the fact that he has been defeated and has had his share of off-nights? Why the raves for Terry Norris, who has always fought smaller men and was kayoed by Julian Jackson and, more recently, Simon Brown? Even the darling of the press, James Toney, was beaten by Dave Tiberi. And that fight, which was given to Toney, was more one-sided than Whitaker-Chavez.

I really believe a draw was justified in the Whitaker-Chavez fight..Chavez clearly took the 12th round, and only one judge gave it to him. Moreover, no points were deducted for Whitaker's low blows. So why do some people believe the judges were in Chavez' pocket?

Leave this great champion alone! Just because he is Mexican is no reason to torture him for an uncharacteristically unperfect fight. How the press can destroy the greatest ever while continuing to praise such non-greats as Norris, Toney, Virgil Hill, Tommy Morrison, Jeff Fenech, and Vinny Pazienza is beyond logic.

WILLIAM LOPEZ
Alta Loma, CA ■

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The RING

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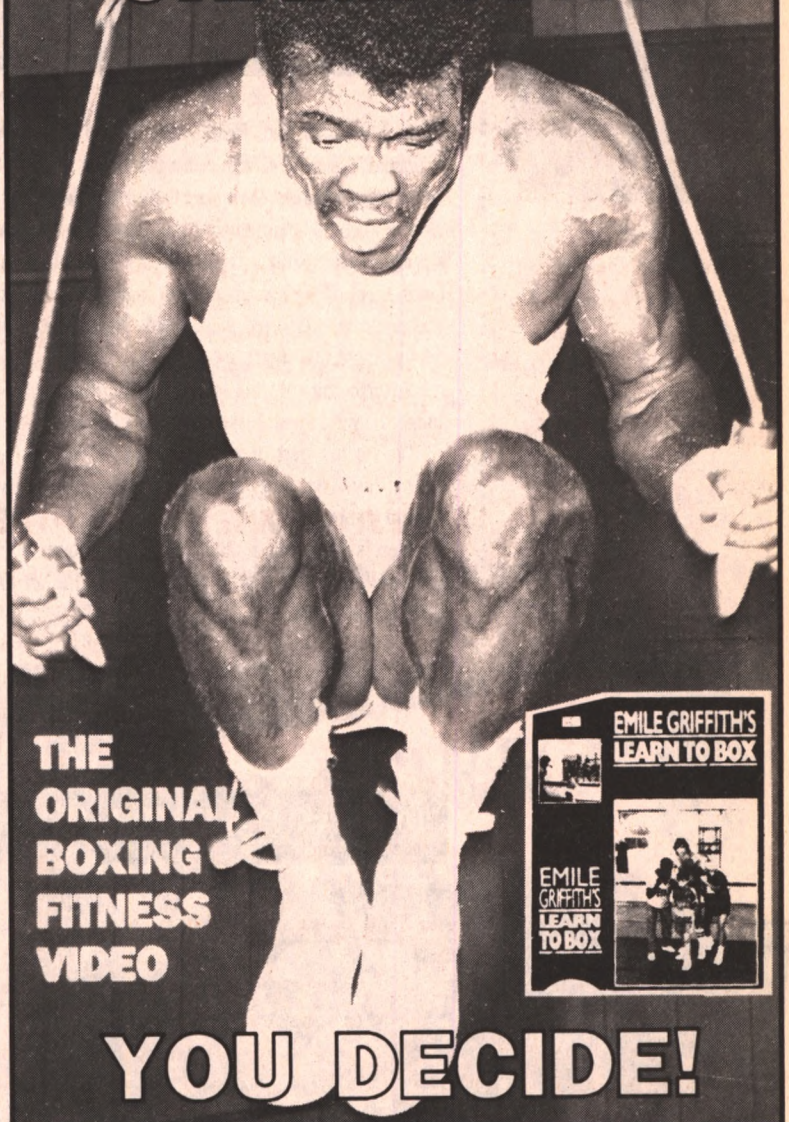

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Round One

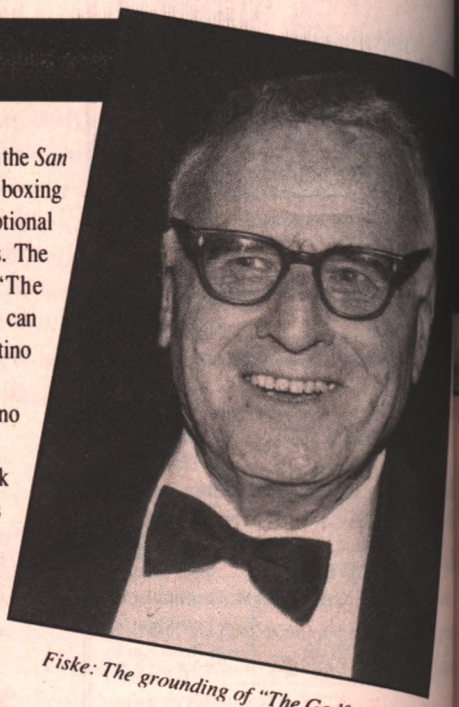
"THE GODFATHER" GOES DOWN

In November, Jack Fiske wrote his last column for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. While the grounding of another boxing writer might hardly seem like news, this is an exceptional case. Fiske has been penning his column for 40 years. The seventysomething institution is regarded as "The Godfather" of fight scribes. How many active writers can you name who covered the Ezzard Charles-Pat Valentino heavyweight title fight?

After being told his widely read column would no longer be welcomed, Fiske accepted a buyout.

"It's a big part of me," he said. "Going to work every day, five days a week, was my life. It was second nature."

Here's to hoping another daily paper corrects the *Chronicle's* mistake by making The Godfather an offer he can't refuse.

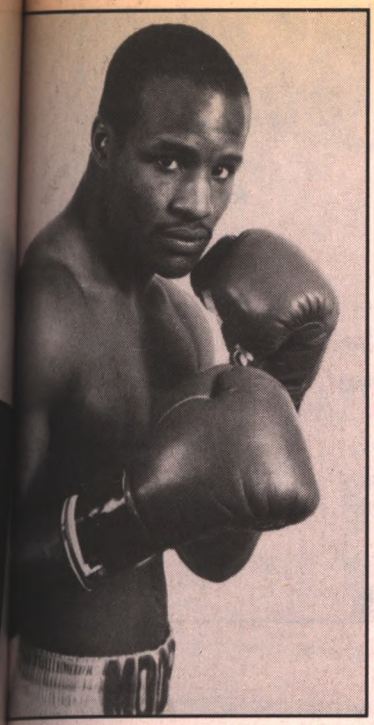


Fiske: The grounding of "The Godfather"

10 REASONS WHY MIKE TYSON WILL FIGHT AGAIN

Tyson: Reason number four

10. It's an ego thing—he has to make more money than Robin Givens
9. He's still intent on making Razor Ruddock his woman
8. A civil service job won't get him invited on Arsenio's show
7. It's the best way to pick up bodacious babes
6. He's intent on perfecting that tricky Cus D'Amato 8-6-1-2 combination
5. It's train and fight or binge and end up looking like Buster Douglas
4. Someone has to pay Don King's rent
3. If he doesn't, he'll start watching those damn soaps again
2. He likes to dress up like Sam Langford
1. Jesse Ferguson is still in the market for a nose job



Moorer: Looking for a fight (in all the wrong places)

MORRISON & MOORER: WHO MADE THESE MATCHES?

Heavyweight Tommy Morrison pleaded innocent to charges of simple assault and public intoxication after punching a 20-year-old University of Iowa student at a restaurant in Iowa City. Morrison said the student was staring at him.

According to Iowa City police sergeant Craig Lihs, "It was a sucker punch."

Lihs said the fighter, an unidentified friend, and their dates were seated at the restaurant at 2:19 a.m. when Morrison approached a group of students and hit William Strout from behind.

Said Lihs, "He taps the guy on the side of the head and knocked him clear out of the booth. The kid never saw him."

Strout was unhurt.

In December, police said Michael Moorer spat at and beat two men in the lobby of a Detroit restaurant. As we went to press, no arrests had been made. The manager of the restaurant, who witnessed the incident, said the top-rated heavyweight was apparently intoxicated. John Davimos, Moorer's co-manager, said the two men provoked Moorer by challenging him and pushing him. After pleading guilty to assaulting a police officer in August 1991, Moorer received two years probation.

HOME IS NOT SO SWEET

On the morning of the Virgil Hill-Saul Montana fight in Fargo, North Dakota (on November 11), Jeff Kolpack of the *Fargo Forum* wrote, "Those were the days when several souls camped out overnight to be first in line for Hill fight tickets. Those days are gone."

There was a time when Kolpack would have been tarred, feathered, and run out of town on a rail for such heresy. But those days are gone, too.

The first signs of Hill's eroding fan support surfaced in August, when Hill made a routine defense against Sergio Merani in Bismarck. Only 4,500 showed, compared to 7,000 or 8,000 for previous Hill bouts against the likes of Bobby Czyz, Tyrone Frazier, Frankie Minton, and Lotte Mwale. Now, however, too many people in North Dakota have to choose between groceries and gasoline, and they're demanding name opponents for their entertainment dollars.

A mere 3,694 cranked the turnstiles for the Montana affair. Sales were hurt by the fact that the USA Network chose not to black out the event locally. Moreover, Hill's fans from the western part of the state couldn't make the 400-mile round trip on a Tuesday.

"The whole thing has kind of lost its pizazz," a somewhat depressed Hill admitted.

Bismarck Tribune sports editor Abe Winter, an unabashed Hill devotee, commented on the fighter's finances in a prefight edition: "Millions of dollars have evaporated for various reasons—bad investments, bad management, wives, and no paydays remotely approaching the $1.5-million he reportedly got for Hearns."

Hill's popularity rebounded a bit with his December 17 defense against Guy Waters. The show was moved to Minot, North Dakota (virgin territory), and sold out the 5,500-seat Municipal Auditorium. Still, Hill was spotted *standing on line* for a restaurant seat a week before the event. If a table wasn't available for the champ in the late-'80s, they would have built one.

Is the Hill bandwagon coming to a slow halt?

"I suppose the decline of the Roman Empire had to start somewhere," said Kolpack. "But in the Emperor's castle?"

Hill: The love affair is waning

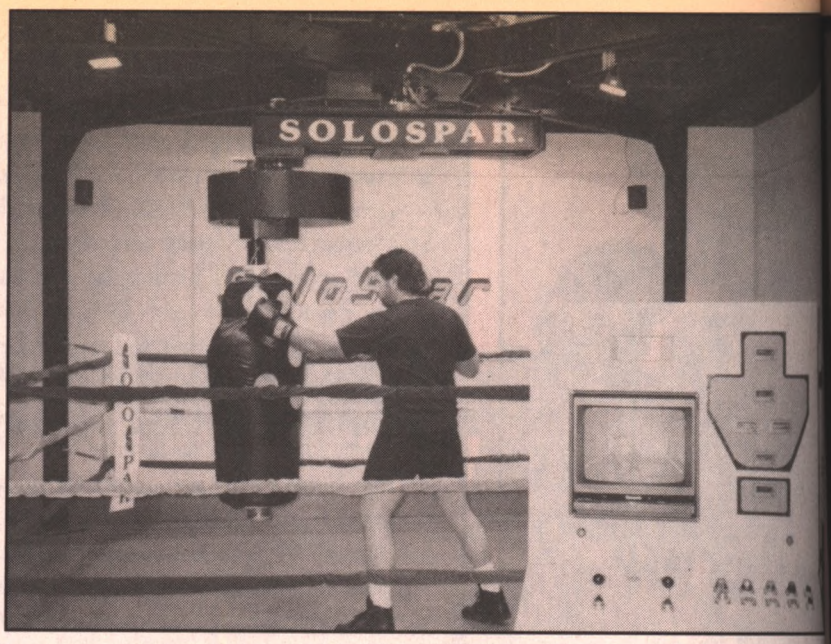
YOU CAN BE REPLACED BY A MACHINE

Boxers who have grown tired of pounding on the same sparring partners may soon find relief in the form of a machine.

SoloSpar is the brainchild of New Jersey inventor Richard Murphy. It is a heavybag hung from an overhead mechanism that can mimic a sparring partner in every way except the ability to punch back. It moves in all directions and changes speeds. Better yet, it can be programmed to imitate the style of an upcoming opponent.

Murphy began working on SoloSpar in 1987 and obtained a patent in 1991. (Floyd Patterson and Bobby Czyz have served as consultants.) He hopes a small version of the machine will sell for less than $20,000.

—Alan Shelton



SoloSpar: The perfect sparring partner

Briggs with trainer Teddy Atlas

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Estranged manager **Mike Marley** has filed a $25-million breach of contract suit against co-manager **Marc Roberts** and unbeaten heavyweight **Shannon Briggs**. Briggs is 15-0 (12), but has faced only one fighter with a winning record ... According to the newsletter *Flash*, **Lucy Garcia**, the mother of one-time heavyweight contender **Alex Garcia**, was murdered in Bakersfield, California. Police arrested **William Quinones**, the victim's son-in-law, who allegedly confessed to the murder because the woman was interfering with his marriage to Garcia's sister.

PEP? YEP

No fighter has visited the International Boxing Hall of Fame as often as legendary former featherweight champion Willie Pep. During a recent visit to Canastota, New York, Pep donated THE RING championship belt he was awarded after his title-winning effort against Chalky Wright in 1942.

Pep: Showing off the hardware

001

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Oops. Make that $170,000

AND THE WINNER OF $1-MILLION ... UH, *$170,000* ...

"The People's Choice World Heavyweight Superfights," a one-night pay-per-view tournament held at Casino Magic in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, was fun, frustrating, and, of course, bizarre.

After 15 of the 16 entrants had been eliminated in three-round bouts, 258-pound former WBA champion Tony Tubbs was crowned the winner. The first prize was supposed to be $1-million, but a Japanese investor pulled out, leaving Tubbs $170,000, plus a percentage of PPV revenues. There were other problems: Joe Savage, a mysterious bare-knuckle fighter from England, was a late scratch. (In fact, only nine of the 15 original contestants competed.) Bert Cooper made it to the ring only after surviving an injunction issued on fight night by his promoter, Rick Parker. And Cooper's conqueror, Australia's Craig Petersen, withdrew because of dizziness.

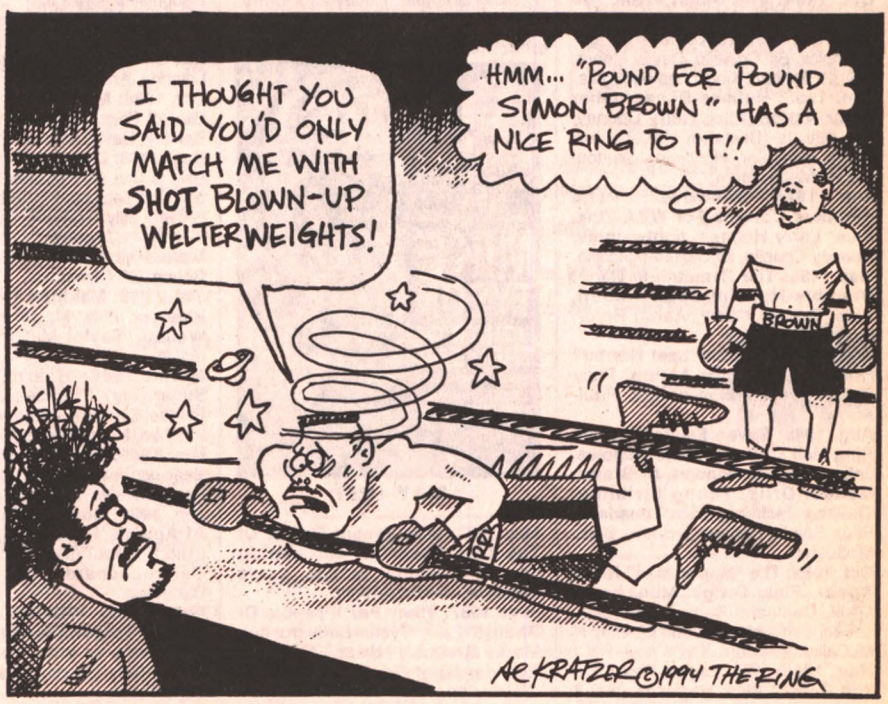
ROUND OF 16
- Bonecrusher Smith W 3 Lester Jackson
- Tony Tubbs KO 1 Willie Jackson
- Marshall Tillman W 3 Jason Williams
- Jose Ribalta W 3 Derek Williams
- Dan Dancuta KO 1 Derrick Roddy
- Shane Sutcliffe W Disq. 3 Rocky Ray Phillips
- Tyrell Biggs W 3 Yevgeni Sudakov
- Craig Petersen W 3 Bert Cooper

QUARTERFINALS
- Bonecrusher Smith W 3 Marshall Tillman
- Tony Tubbs W 3 Jose Ribalta
- Daniel Dancuta (walkover) Craig Petersen
- Tyrell Biggs KO 2 Shane Sutcliffe

SEMIFINALS
- Daniel Dancuta W 3 Bonecrusher Smith
- Tony Tubbs W 3 Tyrell Biggs

FINALS
- Tony Tubbs W 3 Daniel Dancuta

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



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Aug. 1982: Cooney: Is He The Real McCoy? Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard pinup, Holmes-Cooney coverage, Howard Davis, British heavyweights, Larry Holmes, Limon-Navarette.

Sept. 1982: Leon Spinks: Boxing's Prodigal Son Returns To The Cruiserweights. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Sanchez-Nelson, Max Baer, Milton McCrory.

Jan. 1983: Pryor-Arguello: Fight Of The Year. Plus: Frank "Animal" Fletcher, Dwight Braxton-Michael Spinks preview, ring deaths, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Ray Mancini, Bum of the Month Club, Chacon-Limon.

May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Camacho-Ramirez, Berbick-Green, Jeff Fenech, John E. Garcia, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, *Raging Bull II*.

MAY 1987

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

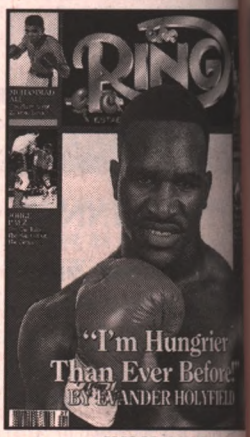
Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: George Foreman (color), Mike Tyson, Carlos Monzon, Duran-Leonard III, LaMotta-Dauthuille.

Feb. 1990: Riddick Bowe/Ray Mercer Target...Tyson: Plus: The Olympians as pros (color), Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Wepner-Liston, Bobo Olson.

March 1990: The '80s-Great Fi... Great Fighters (color). Plus: Harding, Evander Holyfield, ... Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker-... Ring Fighter Of The Year (co... Plus: Chavez-Taylor pre... Leonard-Duran III, Tiger Flow... Muhammad Ali.

June 1990: Buster! How Ja... Douglas Shocked The World. ... Michael Moorer, Camacho-Fi... Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick T... Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.



JULY 1990

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ev... Before!" By Evander Holyfie... Plus: Muhammad Ali painting, A... Liston II, New York welters, Mich... Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan.

Aug. 1990: His Greatnes... Confirmed ... Is Julio Ces... Chavez The Greatest Mexica... Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Sa... Muhammad, Sullivan & Tyso... Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Herol... Johnson, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can H... Resist The Irresistible Temptation... Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez... Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. ... chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta... (color).

Oct. 1990: Thanks For The... Memories: Rocky Graziano, 1923-... 1990. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Mike Tyson... Napoles-Leonard, A Gathering O... Champions (color).

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman... Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From... The Past? Plus: Marciano-LaStarza... boxing's best chins, Azumah Nelson... Sullivan-Kilrain (color).

Dec. 1990: Our Exclusive Annual... Report: The State Of The Game... Plus: Joe Grim, Douglas-Holyfield... preview, Marciano-Frazier, Douglas-... Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad... Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own... Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid... Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy... Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-... Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV: Now You'll Pay. Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison, Humberto Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis, heavyweight Ring covers (color).
March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ. Plus: Charles Murray, Billy Bird, Khaosai Galaxy, Armstrong-Duran, computer flyweight tournament, Sonny Liston (color).
April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez-The Ring Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.
May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Later, Still The Fight Of The Century. Plus: Hometown heroes, George Costner, Galindez-Saad Muhammad, Tony Canzoneri, computer featherweight tournament, Ali-Frazier pinup.
June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Holyfield-Foreman preview, Norris-Leonard, Freddie Steele, computer lightweight tournament, Tiger-Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).
July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).
Aug. 1991: Fat, Funny, And Forty-Two, But Certainly No Fraud: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill. Plus: Harry Greb, Louis-Conn I, making weight, computer welterweight tournament, Dempsey-Marciano, Holyfield-Foreman (color).
Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).
Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, overrated and underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).
Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).
Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

MARCH 1992

March 1992: Turning Heads-Ray Mercer Makes His Statement To The Heavyweights. Plus: Lou Nova, 1980 Olympic team, boxing cards, Rodrigo Valdes, *Ring's* New Year's wish, Joe Louis-Muhammad Ali, Jack Dempsey (color).
April 1992: Is Evander Holyfield Tough Enough To Stay On Top? Plus: Buddy McGirt, George Foreman, Toney-McCallum, referees, Marvin Hart, Al Hostak, Eusebio Pedroza-Salvador Sanchez, Ketchel-Johnson (color).
May 1992: Fighter Of The Year: James Toney. Plus: Roy Jones, Rocky Graziano, longest title reigns, Myung Woo Yuh & Khaosai Galaxy, James Warring, Billy Soose, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).
June 1992: After Mike Tyson's Conviction: What Now? Plus: Buck Smith, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder & Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Foreman-Liston, Tyson (color).
July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).
Aug. 1992: Larry Holmes On The Big Fight: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Carnival of Champions, Oscar De La Hoya, Haugen-Mancini, Foreman-Stewart, Harry Greb, Gene Tunney (color).
Sept. 1992: Julio Cesar Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Fight The Legends? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez & Nicky Acevedo, alternate careers, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).
Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).
Nov. 1992: Who'll Stop The Reign? Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Mike Tyson, Tommy Morrison, Chavez-Camacho preview, All-Time Top 10: Australia, Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown, Corbett-Sullivan (color).
Dec. 1992: Foreman vs. Morrison: Should This Fight Happen ... Will You Watch It? Plus: Ruddock-Lewis preview, Julian Jackson, Al Cole, Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey Museum, Randolph Turpin, Olympic recap, Floyd Patterson (color).
Jan. 1993: Slammin' 'n' Jammin'—Bowe & Holyfield Go One On One. Plus: The State Of The Game, Gene Fullmer, Chavez-Camacho, Sullivan & Fitzsimmons, Bigfoot Martin, Carmen Basilio (color).
Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).
March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).
April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, Argentina's All-Time Top 10, Fighters of the Year (color).
May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He Good Enough Now? Plus: *The Ring* poll, Freddie Pendleton, Carbajal-Gonzales preview, Benny Leonard, Charley Burley, Lennox Lewis (color).

JUNE 1993

June 1993: Riddick Bowe, The Man, By LeRoy Neiman. Plus: Ireland's Top 10, Paul Hodkinson, Ray Mercer, James Toney-Iran Barkley, Kennedy McKinney, LeRoy Neiman (color).
Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 Hardest Punchers in Boxing, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, Closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).
Sept. 1993: Lennox Lewis' First Title Defense: Beating Tucker Was The Easy Part. Plus: Mexico's Top 10, Sergei Artemiev, Julio Cesar Vasquez, Gerald McClellan-Julian Jackson, Michael Spinks (color).
Nov. 1993: Julio Cesar Chavez: He Crushed Haugen, Annihilated Alli, Is Whitaker Next? Plus: Marvin Hagler, Evander Holyfield, John-John Molina, Boxing's Training Tricks, Final Show at Madison Square Garden.
Dec. 1993: What If Mike Tyson Had Never Gone To Jail? Plus: Freddie Pendleton, Michael Moorer & Tommy Morrison, Willie Pep, Ed Dunkhorst, Cuba's Top 10, Tyson-Spinks (color).

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The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended January 1, 1994

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

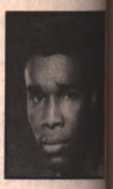
Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

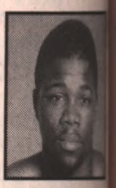
Evander Holyfield

Michael Nunn



Lamar Parks

Charles Murray



Junior Jones

Marco A. Barrera

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** — Atlanta, GA *30-1 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **RIDDICK BOWE** — Fort Washington, MD *34-1*
3. **LENNOX LEWIS** — England *24-0 (WBC Champ)*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** — Detroit, MI *34-0*
5. **MICHAEL BENTT** — Cambria Heights, NY *11-1*
6. **OLIVER McCALL** — Chicago, IL *22-5*
7. **RAY MERCER** — Vernon Valley, NJ *23-2*
8. **PHIL JACKSON** — Miami, FL *30-1*
9. **TOMMY MORRISON** — Merriam, KS *37-2*
10. **MIKE HUNTER** — Las Vegas, NV *22-3-2*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ORLIN NORRIS** — Campo, CA *38-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **ANACLET WAMBA** — France *40-2 (WBC Champ)*
3. **AL COLE** — Spring Valley, NY *24-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** — Las Vegas, NV *20-1-1*
5. **THOMAS HEARNS** — Detroit, MI *51-4-1*
6. **NATE MILLER** — Philadelphia, PA *23-3*
7. **MASSIMILIANO DURAN** — Italy *19-4*
8. **AKIM TAFER** — France *17-4*
9. **ROBERT DANIELS** — Miami, FL *24-2-1*
10. **KENNY KEENE** — Emmett, ID *25-0*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL** — Bismarck, ND *38-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **HENRY MASKE** — Germany *21-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **JEFF HARDING** — Australia *23-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS** — Mansfield, OH *35-5-2*
5. **LEEONZER BARBER** — Detroit, MI *18-1*
6. **MIKE McCALLUM** — Brooklyn, NY *45-2-1*
7. **EGERTON MARCUS** — Canada *12-0*
8. **FRANK TATE** — Houston, TX *34-3*
9. **ERNESTO MAGDALENO** — Westminster, CA *16-0-1*
10. **FABRICE TIOZZO** — France *27-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **JAMES TONEY** — Ann Arbor, MI *41-0-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **MICHAEL NUNN** — Davenport, IA *42-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **CHRIS EUBANK** — England *36-0-1*
4. **NIGEL BENN** — England *34-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
5. **TIM LITTLES** — Flint, MI *23-0*
6. **DARRIN VAN HORN** — Lexington, KY *53-3*
7. **FRANK LILES** — N. Hollywood, CA *24-1*
8. **TONY THORNTON** — Glassboro, NJ *32-6-1*
9. **ANTOINE BYRD** — Los Angeles, CA *24-4-1*
10. **VINCENZO NARDIELLO** — Italy *24-2*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** — Pensacola, FL *24-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **GERALD McCLELLAN** — Freeport, IL *29-2 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** — Seattle, WA *30-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **REGGIE JOHNSON** — Houston, TX *34-3-1*
5. **JULIAN JACKSON** — Virgin Islands *47-2*
6. **THOMAS TATE** — Houston, TX *29-2*
7. **LAMAR PARKS** — Greeneville, SC *27-1*
8. **BERNARD HOPKINS** — Philadelphia, PA *24-2*
9. **VINNY PAZIENZA** — Cranston, RI *35-5*
10. **OTIS GRANT** — Canada *22-0*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **SIMON BROWN** — Mount Airy, MD 40-2 (WBC Champ)
2. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ** — Argentina 45-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **GIANFRANCO ROSI** — Italy 57-3 (IBF Champ)
4. **VERNO PHILLIPS** — New York, NY 20-5
5. **TERRY NORRIS** — Mission Valley, CA 36-4
6. **CARL DANIELS** — St. Louis, MO 30-1
7. **AARON DAVIS** — Bronx, NY 38-2
8. **RONALD WRIGHT** — St. Petersburg, FL 23-0
9. **JULIO CESAR GREEN** — Brooklyn, NY 14-1
10. **TROY WATERS** — Australia 21-3

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER** — Norfolk, VA 32-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD** — Puerto Rico 22-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **CRISANTO ESPANA** — N. Ireland 30-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **BUDDY McGIRT** — Hauppauge, NY 60-3-1
5. **YORI BOY CAMPAS** — Mexico 54-0
6. **IKE QUARTEY** — Ghana 25-0
7. **WILFREDO RIVERA** — Puerto Rico 17-0-1
8. **OBA CARR** — Detroit, MI 28-0
9. **LARRY BARNES** — Mt. Vernon, NY 30-1
10. **ANTHONY JONES** — Detroit, MI 33-5-1

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ** — Mexico 89-0-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **JUAN COGGI** — Argentina 65-2-2 (WBA Champ)
3. **CHARLES MURRAY** — Rochester, NY 31-1 (IBF Champ)
4. **ZACK PADILLA** — Azusa, CA 19-1-1
5. **KOSTYA TSZYU** — Australia 10-0
6. **CARLOS GONZALEZ** — Mexico 37-1
7. **HECTOR LOPEZ** — Tarzana, CA 26-2
8. **DAVID KAMAU** — Los Angeles, CA 21-0
9. **TONY LOPEZ** — Sacramento, CA 44-4-1
10. **RAY OLIVEIRA** — Fall River, MA 20-4

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ** — Mexico 30-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **FREDDIE PENDLETON** — Miami, FL 35-18-4 (IBF Champ)
3. **NAZAROV OLZUBEK** — Japan 19-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **RAFAEL RUELAS** — Arleta, CA 39-1
5. **SHARMBA MITCHELL** — Takoma Park, MD 30-0
6. **DINGAAN THOBELA** — South Africa 29-2-1
7. **JOEY GAMACHE** — Lewiston, ME 33-1
8. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY** — France 45-4-2
9. **MIGUEL JULIO** — Colombia 23-1-1
10. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON** — Atlantic City, NJ 19-0-1

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **AZUMAH NELSON** — Ghana 36-2-2 (WBC Champ)
2. **GENARO HERNANDEZ** — Los Angeles, CA 29-0-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA** — Puerto Rico 33-3 (IBF Champ)
4. **CALVIN GROVE** — Coatesville, PA 45-5
5. **GABE RUELAS** — Arleta, CA 35-2
6. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** — Montebello, CA 11-0
7. **JIMMI BREDAHL** — Denmark 17-0
8. **VICTOR HUGO PAZ** — Argentina 38-1-1
9. **REGILIO TUUR** — Whitestone, NY 32-3-1
10. **MARCOS GUEVARA** — Venezuela 21-2

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **KEVIN KELLEY** — Flushing, NY 37-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **TOM JOHNSON** — Detroit, MI 34-2-1 (IBF Champ)
3. **ELOY ROJAS** — Venezuela 27-1-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **GOYO VARGAS** — Mexico 30-4-1
5. **YUNG KYUN PARK** — South Korea 25-2-1
6. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA** — San Antonio, TX 26-0-2
7. **PAUL HODKINSON** — England 22-2-1
8. **ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ** — Mexico 29-2-2
9. **STEVE ROBINSON** — Wales 16-9-1
10. **FRANCISCO SEGURA** — Coachella, CA 23-6-1

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **KENNEDY McKINNEY** — Las Vegas, NV 25-0-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **TRACY PATTERSON** — Highland, NY 48-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **WILFREDO VASQUEZ** — Puerto Rico 38-6-3 (WBA Champ)
4. **WELCOME NCITA** — South Africa 32-1
5. **JULIO GERVACIO** — Puerto Rico 28-3-2
6. **JESSE BENAVIDES** — Corpus Christi, TX 38-3-1
7. **JESUS SALUD** — San Diego, CA 45-6
8. **CESAR SOTO** — Mexico 36-5-2
9. **YUICHI KASAI** — Japan 18-0-1
10. **DUKE McKENZIE** — England 33-4

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **ORLANDO CANIZALES** — Laredo, TX 35-1-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **JUNIOR JONES** — Brooklyn, NY 31-0 (WBA Champ)
3. **YASUEI YAKUSHIJI** — Japan 20-2-1 (WBC Champ)
4. **ELIECER JULIO** — Colombia 24-1
5. **JUNG IL BYUN** — South Korea 10-1
6. **RAFAEL DEL VALLE** — Puerto Rico 15-0
7. **VICTOR RABANALES** — Mexico 34-12-2
8. **VINCENZO BELCASTRO** — Italy 25-5-3
9. **GERARDO MARTINEZ** — San Jose, CA 29-1
10. **DAORUNG CHUWATANA** — Thailand 49-4-2

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **KATSUYA ONIZUKA** — Japan 22-0 (WBA Champ)
2. **JULIO BORBOA** — Mexico 21-4 (IBF Champ)
3. **JOSE LUIS BUENO** — Mexico 22-3-1 (WBC Champ)
4. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA** — Mexico 28-0
5. **SUNG KIL MOON** — South Korea 20-2
6. **ROBERT QUIROGA** — San Antonio, TX 20-1
7. **JOHNNY BREDAHL** — Denmark 20-0
8. **KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM** — Thailand 44-4
9. **CARLOS SALAZAR** — Argentina 30-4-3
10. **KOTARO HAYASHI** — Japan 12-3

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **YURI ARBACHAKOV** — Japan 17-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **DAVID GRIMAN** — Venezuela 17-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **PHICHIT SITHBANGPRACHAN** — Thailand 17-0 (IBF Champ)
4. **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO** — Blythe, CA 34-4-1
5. **JOSE LUIS ZEPEDA** — Mexico 23-11-2
6. **MARK JOHNSON** — Washington, D.C. 16-1
7. **SCOTTY OLSON** — Las Vegas, NV 28-1
8. **SAN SOW PLEONCHIT** — Thailand 14-0
9. **ROBBIE REGAN** — Wales 11-1-3
10. **DANNY ROMERO** — Albuquerque, NM 13-0

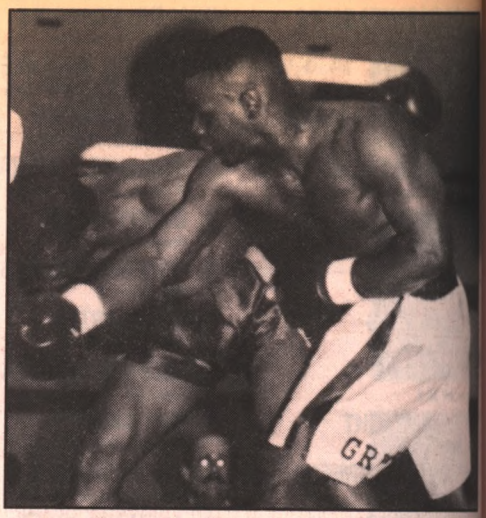
JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL** — Phoenix, AZ 29-0 (WBC/IBF Champ)
2. **HUMBERTO GONZALEZ** — Mexico 37-2
3. **LEO GAMEZ** — Venezuela 24-3 (WBA Champ)
4. **LEON SALAZAR** — Panama 15-3-1
5. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO** — Mexico 37-4-3
6. **JOSE DeJESUS** — Puerto Rico 26-2-1
7. **JESUS CHONG** — Mexico 21-5
8. **JUAN ANTONIO TORRES** — Panama 19-3-1
9. **ROBINSON CUESTA** — Panama 23-1
10. **ERIC GRIFFIN** — Jasper, TN 10-1

POUND FOR POUND

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER** — Welterweight
2. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ** — Junior Welterweight
3. **JAMES TONEY** — Super Middleweight
4. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL** — Junior Flyweight
5. **ORLANDO CANIZALES** — Bantamweight
6. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** — Heavyweight
7. **RICARDO LOPEZ** — Strawweight
8. **ROY JONES** — Middleweight
9. **KENNEDY McKINNEY** — Junior Featherweight
10. **YURI ARBACHAKOV** — Flyweight

New Faces



Griffin hammers Ron Stringer in his fifth pro fight, a third-round kayo in June. Overall, Griffin won 10 fights in 1993.

PRO RECORD

1993		
Feb. 16	Luis Ornelas, Denver	KO 2
March 13	Calvin Puckett, Aurora, IL	KO 2
April 16	Randy McGaugh, Lansing, MI	KO 2
April 26	Don Penelton, Rosemont, IL	W 6
June 25	Ron Stringer, Countryside, IL	KO 3
Aug. 13	Mike Garcia, Corpus Christi	KO 3
Aug. 27	Ka-dy King, Beverly Hills, CA	W 6
Sept. 24	Bobby Mack, Dublin, Ireland	W 6
Nov. 19	Terry Collier, Countryside	W 8
Dec. 6	Ben Juda, Rosemont	KO 6

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	10	10	0	0	6

Montell Griffin

Light Heavyweight

By Arlene Schulman

As he opens the worn scrapbook, Montell Griffin lovingly touches old photographs and news clippings pasted across its pages as if to bring back cherished memories. A tiny boy, age five, with a large Afro smiles next to a young Muhammad Ali in faded black and white.

"The first time I met him was back in 1975," recalled Griffin. (The light heavyweight's father, Clarence, owned the Windy City Gym in Chicago.) "Ali would come down and train, and they really got to be good friends. My father helped him out and took some sparring partners up to the Deer Lake training camp. It was a nice experience. I grew up with Ali and I thought he was the greatest heavyweight ever. I trained pretending that I was Ali, and everyone thought I was his son. I was in a position where a thousand people would have traded places with me."

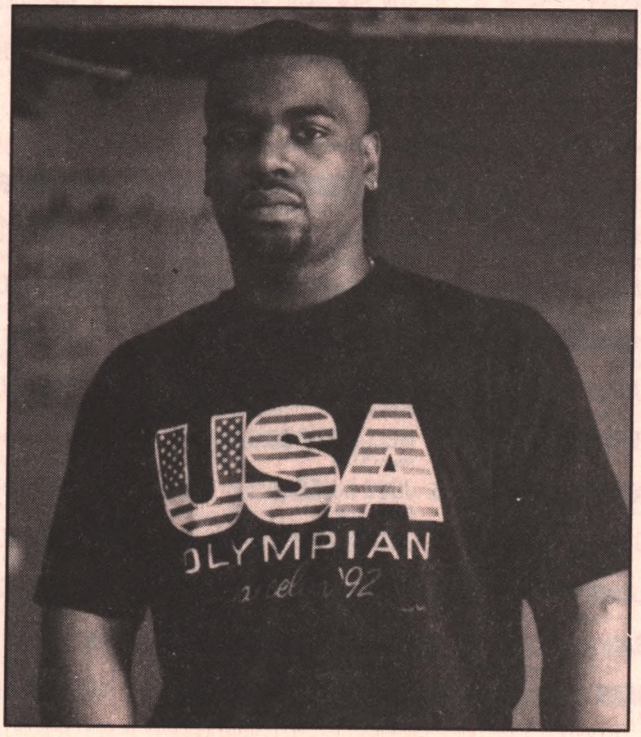
"The Greatest" loved young Griffin's Ali impersonations.

"Ali would come around and make me do it," Griffin said. "One time he came in at 4 a.m. and woke me up to shadowbox. He was nice to me, like a friend."

Griffin began to box like Ali. There was only one problem: He grew to be only 5'7".

"I picked up some of his habits," said the undefeated Griffin, who carries his hands by his waist, leans away from punches, and occasionally dances and jabs. "He never really taught me, but I learned by watching. I'm only 5'7", but I can box anyone outside and still be effective. I was blessed with quick hands and I've got great reflexes. I slip and move. A lot of people messed up their careers trying to fight like Ali. I just picked up certain points that I liked. Being around him just rubbed off."

(Continued on page 56)



The shirt says it all. Griffin competed in Barcelona but suffered a controversial loss, and came home without a medal.

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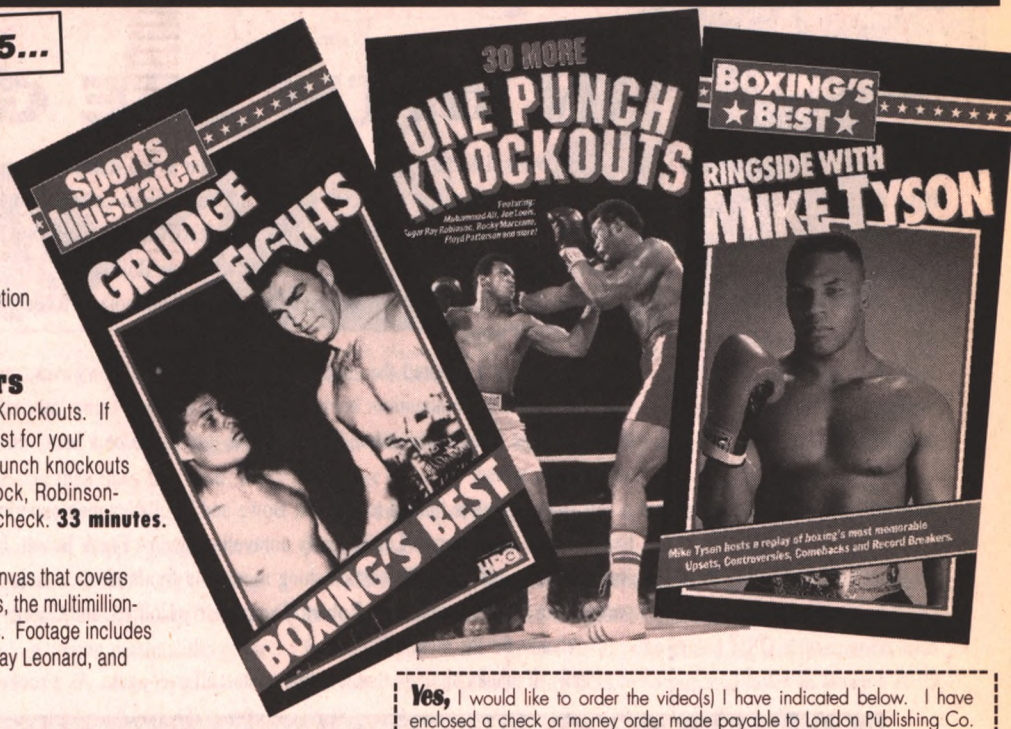

GRUDGE FIGHTS

The greatest grudge fights in boxing history are presented in this non-stop action video. See Jack Dempsey try to regain the title from Gene Tunney and Joe Louis seek revenge against Max Schmeling. Watch Joe Walcott battle Ezzard Charles and Rocky Marciano in epic wars, the Ali Frazier trilogy, plus a collection of rare footage that recounts boxing's most memorable bouts. **58 minutes.**

MORE ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS

The exciting followup to Great One-Punch Knockouts. If you like knockout action, this video is a must for your collection. You'll see these fantastic one-punch knockouts and many more: Ali-Liston II, Louis-Braddock, Robinson-Fullmer, Patterson-Johansson II, Louis-Paycheck. **33 minutes.**

RINGSIDE WITH MIKE TYSON

Mike Tyson puts it all together in a colorful canvas that covers the main events, the controversies, the upsets, the multimillion-dollar gates, the records, and the comebacks. Footage includes Sonny Liston, Jake LaMotta, Ray Robinson, Ray Leonard, and much more. **44 minutes.**

THE MIDDLEWEIGHTS

The most skillful and devastating middleweights in the history of boxing are profiled in this fast-moving video. Watch stellar performances by Stanley Ketchel, Sugar Ray Robinson, and Marcel Cerdan. Also includes Rocky Graziano, Jake LaMotta, Carlos Monzon, and many others. Hosted by Curt Gowdy and Floyd Patterson. **58 minutes.**

BOXING'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS

Match wits with the Boxing Writers of America as they choose the best fighter of all-time from each division and then debate who deserves the title of the Greatest Fighter of All-Time. Includes explosive fight footage of Henry Armstrong, Benny Leonard, and Roberto Duran in the lightweight division; welterweights Barney Ross, Henry Armstrong, and Ray Robinson; middleweights Mickey Walker, Carlos Monzon, and Ray Robinson; light heavyweights Bob Fitzsimmons, Billy Conn, and Archie Moore; heavyweights Muhammad Ali, Rocky Marciano, and Joe Louis. **60 minutes.**

THE HEAVYWEIGHTS: "THE BIG PUNCHERS"

The biggest draw in sports today is the heavyweight knockout artist. This hard-hitting video explores boxing's most famous punchers. A sample of the action included in this video are clips of Dempsey's savage victory over Willard, the second Louis-Schmeling fight, Marciano vs. Walcott, and Frazier vs. Ali. **59 minutes.**

GREAT ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS

You've got a ringside seat for a heart-stopping lineup of boxing's most exciting knockouts, including Muhammad Ali-George Foreman, Ezzard Charles-Joe Walcott, Jim Corbett-Bob Fitzsimmons, Rocky Marciano-Joe Walcott, Sugar Ray Robinson-Rocky Graziano, and many more. **30 minutes.**

THE HEAVYWEIGHTS: THE STYLISTS

Host Curt Gowdy highlights the careers of the sport's finest boxers. Beginning with Jim Corbett, you'll see challengers throughout history battle in some of the most striking film coverage ever assembled. Jack Johnson displays exquisite defensive skills, Floyd Patterson shows off his peek-a-boo style, Gene Tunney demonstrates the scientific approach to boxing, and Muhammad Ali exhibits the skills that made him "The Greatest," plus Walcott, Charles, and Louis. **57 minutes.**

TYSON AND THE HEAVYWEIGHTS

Join Mike Tyson as he takes a tour through the history of the heavyweight division. Tyson adds his own insight as he analyzes the styles and lives of the men who wore the heavyweight crown before him. This fantastic video includes rare footage of Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali, and, of course, Tyson himself. **51 minutes.**

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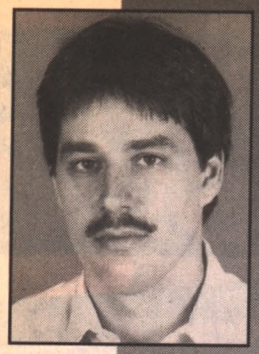


Ryan Out Loud

By Jeff Ryan

IN WITH THE GNU

Hangovers. Distant relatives you wish remained at a distance. Fattening food. And way too much sports on TV. Oh, there's no place like home for the holidays. From college hoops to the NBA to the NFL, the holiday season is a blitzkrieg of bouncing balls and broadcasters' babble. By 8 p.m. on New Year's Day, I can't tell the Federal Express Orange Bowl from the USF&G Manute Bol. To tell you the truth, the only two bowls that matter to me are my cereal bowl and my toilet bowl, and if granola is featured in the former, the latter becomes the granddaddy of them all.

This year, as I endured the annual assault of the athletic airwaves, my thoughts were on one sport that was receiving virtually no attention: boxing. As the big ball was being lowered in Times Square, my expectations for the fight game were being raised. The new year just *has* to be a better one for boxing than the old year. Heck, it can't be any worse.

In 1993, we were treated to Riddick Bowe and Rock Newman experimenting in cryongenics by freezing the heavyweight title, Lennox Lewis nearly unraveling against Frank Bruno, Jeff Fenech collapsing completely, Roy Jones tapering off, the WBO establishing more of a foothold, the black eye of the Whitaker-Chavez scoring, a parachuting Fan Man, and more Roberto Duran, Larry Holmes, and George Foreman fights.

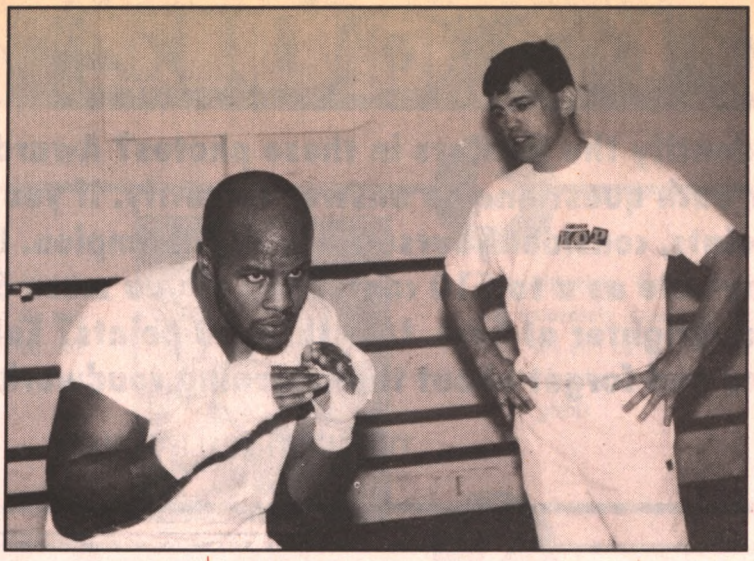
No thanks for the memories.

Plenty of thanks, though, that it's time to start all over again. As a zookeeper friend of mine once said, out with

Photo by Chris Cassidy

The hit list of heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield and adviser Hammer includes no Jesse Fergusons or Michael Dokeses.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn



Top-rated heavyweight contender Michael Moorer, shadowboxing under the watchful eye of trainer Teddy Atlas, will finally secure his try at the title in '94.

old and in with the gnu. Here seven reasons why the Sweet cience's '94 will be sweeter than '93:

1) **Evander Holyfield is eavyweight champion:** We ought Holyfield's reign was afety-first, but then along came owe, who emphasized safety irst, last, and in-between. "The eal Deal" is making *his* list and hecking it twice, and the first two ames on it are Michael Moorer nd Lennox Lewis, not Michael okes and Jesse Ferguson.

2) **Michael Moorer will get his title shot:** With the savagery of a wolverine and legitimate hands of stone, Moorer has always been part animal and part mineral. In 1993, however, he was all vegetable. His fights outside the ring were more interesting than the ones inside, and he climbed into the mandatory contender spot merely by existing.

By the time Moorer gets his title shot, all that stepping aside should have at least improved his footwork. And yes, he will *finally* get that long-awaited opportunity this year. When he does, we will learn the most important thing about one of the most intriguing boxing personalities of the past decade: how well he can fight.

Moorer's chin is shaky, and you have to wonder how focused he is after the changes of trainers, the brushes with the law, and one unchallenging opponent after another over the last two years. Regardless, I think he decisions Holyfield, who is due for a letdown, and knocks out Lewis.

Moorer has long been the baddest man on the planet. This year, he gets official confirmation.

3) **Terry Norris' mouth has been shut:** This trash-talking hot dog couldn't cut the mustard and got knocked on his buns, and now his silence will be relished. While contending for the title of world's best fighter, pound for pound, Norris always spoke loudly and carried a big size advantage. When the junior middleweight was at the top of his game, he defended against welterweights and verbally challenged junior welterweights. Now that he's in need of some psyche rehab, he'll probably look for opponents who are small enough to fit in his gymbag.

Rumor has it Norris got real excited when he heard someone mention Noree Jockygym. He didn't know that was a Thai junior featherweight. He thought it was a health club in which he could search for the perfect comeback foe.

4) **Whitaker-McGirt II is planned:** Buddy McGirt's repaired rotator cuff shoulders a heavy burden. It must endure if he is to provide a stern challenge to Pernell Whitaker in their rematch. A glance at the welterweight and junior welterweight ratings reveals McGirt may be our last hope of seeing "Sweet Pea" in a fight he could lose. If McGirt has two good arms, the rematch should be twice as good as last year's battle.

By the way, the very real possibility that Whitaker isn't going to be defeated before he retires further emphasizes what a travesty his fleecing in Paris was in 1988. By screwing him in his first fight with Jose Luis Ramirez, those three WBC judges put on Whitaker's record what may prove to be its only imperfection. Regrettably, there's no boxing court of appeals in which to get *that* verdict overturned.

5) **Oscar De La Hoya will sign a multi-bout deal with HBO:** Great news. Though the quality of HBO matchups has diminished in recent years, the cable network is still demanding enough to insure that De La Hoya will be seen against challenging competition throughout '94. The Olympic champion will probably never be the fighter Pernell Whitaker is, but he shows every sign that he can become the *star* Whitaker is not.

The signing of De La Hoya to a long-term contract is no surprise because in 1994 ...

6) **HBO will be forced to showcase the little guys:** A debt of gratitude to a) Tommy Morrison, who apparently ended the comeback of HBO favorite Foreman, b) Michael Bentt, who ended HBO's fascination with Morrison, and c) Evander Holyfield, who punched holes in Bowe's HBO contract without sustaining a serious paper cut in the process.

It took the crash of some marquee heavyweights to make HBO realize there are plenty of intriguing matchups in the lighter weight classes. One is Kennedy McKinney-Tracy Patterson, which is now on HBO's schedule for '94. For more than $7-million in '93, HBO was able to buy one Riddick Bowe-Jesse Ferguson fight. Well, economic upswing or not, I'd bet that seven mil in 1994 could get you Roy Jones-James Toney, Orlando Canizales-Junior Jones, Freddie Pendleton-Rafael Ruelas, *and* a thriller to be named later.

7) **The Fox Network outbid CBS for the NFL:** By allowing itself to be outFoxed in the bidding for the rights to televise NFC games, CBS suddenly finds itself with plenty of money and weekend air time on its hands. The network that once flexed some impressive muscles in sports television now has as its marquee events The Masters, U.S. Open tennis, and the NCAA basketball tourney. It's little wonder that an entire nation of contact-craving macho men wants to punch CBS right in its trademark eye.

Ah, but fret not, you bruise brothers. If you're more of a full-metal jacket than a green Masters jacket kind of guy, more of a lover of smashes over the head than overhead smashes, more of a fan of boxing's year-round madness than college basketball's March Madness, there is reason for joy. No matter what the honchos are saying at the moment, CBS *will* jump back into boxing by the summer, replacing some of its lost baseball—and, later, football—coverage with the kind of mid-level matchups that are too big for ESPN or USA and too small for HBO or Showtime.

There, aren't those enough reasons to toast the new year? If not, here's one other: The bowl games are over! The Orange Bowl crowd is just now filing out, and so, too, mercifully, are my in-laws. ■

THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

PHOTO QUIZ TEST

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total o 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

THIS MONTH: CALIFORNIANS

1

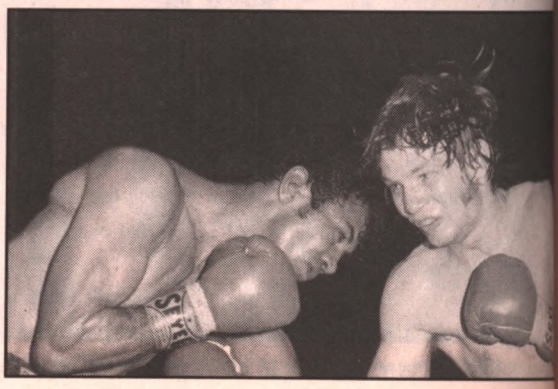
The fighter on the left, posing with Pedro Carrasco, was a world champion at age 20. By 26, he was retired.

2

Name this pair of light heavy contenders from the '70s. Don't be fooled by the fancy hats. Neither was ever crowned a world champion.

3

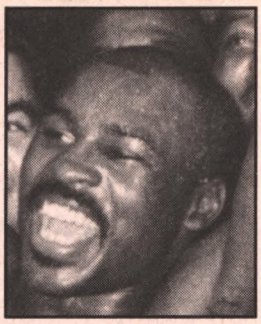
The Californian on the right, trading with Art Leon, was a longtime welterweight contender who campaigned during the division's peak years.



T YOUR BOXING IQ

4

This welterweight was recognized as the California State world champion in the mid-'60s. When he fought for the unified title, however, he was kayoed by Curtis Cokes.

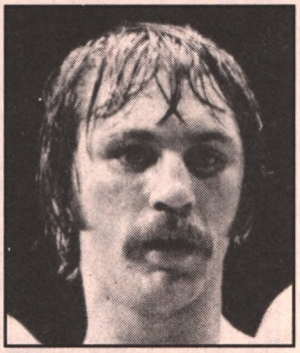


5

This lightweight "Golden Boy" was immensely popular in the late-'40s and early-'50s. He fought for the world title but lost on points.

6

An entry from Northern California, this welter beat Sean O'Grady, but suffered a quickie kayo loss to Pipino Cuevas.



7

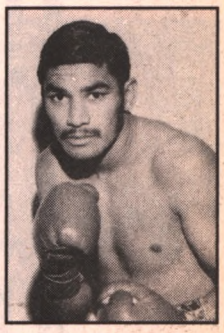
We'll spot you Ryan O'Neal, who was the manager. The fighter was a longtime contender who in the early-'70s was recognized by New York State as a world champion.

8

This tiny terror's world title reign seemingly lasted forever. He fought 127 bouts in an 18-year career.

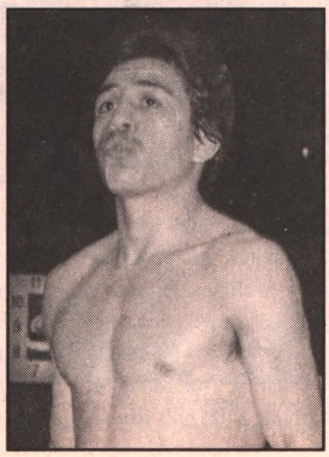
9

This lightweight's big chance came in 1971, when he challenged world champion Ken Buchanan at the Sports Arena in Los Angeles. He dropped a 15-round decision.



10

This popular bantie never won a world title (his one try came in 1980), but his little brother did—and in the same division.

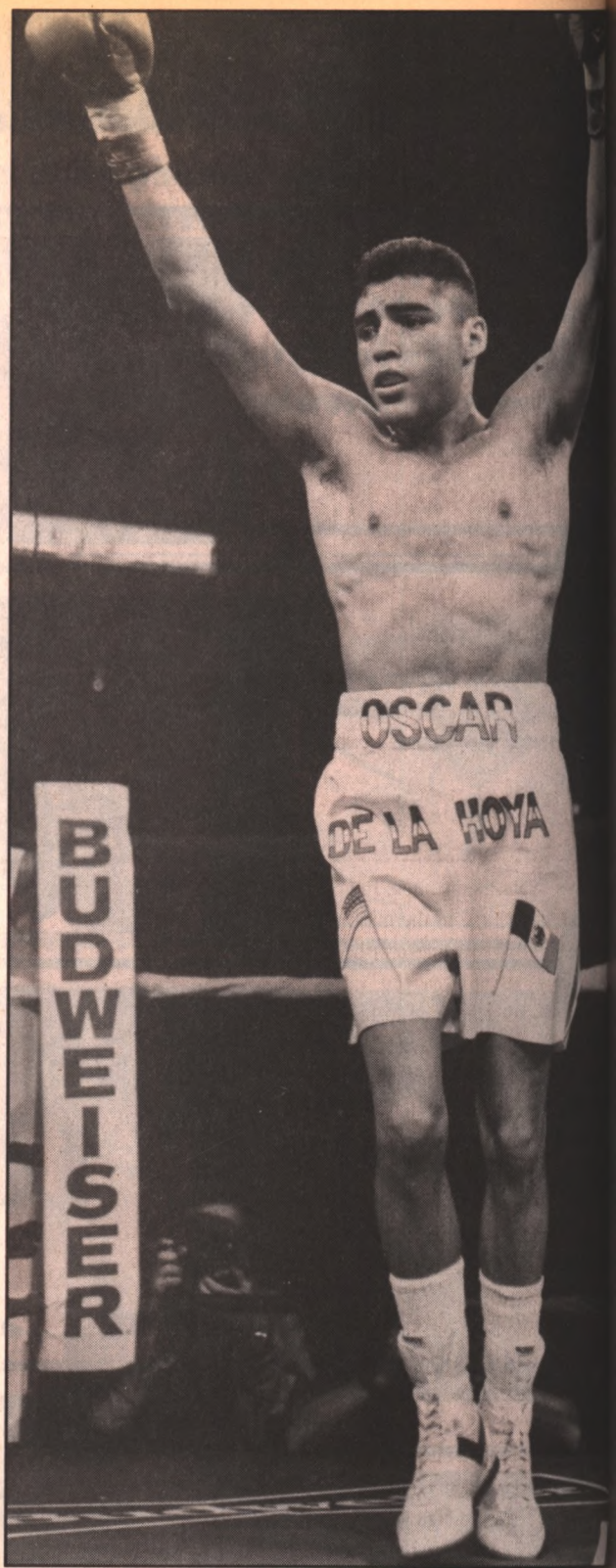


ANSWERS:

1) Mando Ramos
2) Windmill White
Mike Quarry
3) Randy Shields
4) Charlie Shipes
5) Art Aragon
6) Pete Ranzany
7) Hedgemon Lewis
8) Manuel Ortiz
9) Ruben Navarro
10) Albert Sandoval

Golden Boy Or Golddigger?

THE DAMAGED IMAGE OF OSCAR DE LA HOYA



By Steve Farhood

Image *isn't* everything, but ...

Until a couple of months ago, the name Oscar De La Hoya brought a single snapshot to mind. There's Oscar the Amateur, victorious again, dropping to one knee and sending a kiss to the sky, for his mother Cecilia, who died of cancer in 1990. It is a warm picture, full of love and tenderness and all the emotions that were long ago banned from boxing. It is all so ... *human*.

As 1993 wound down, however, a second snapshot developed quickly, like a 60-second Polaroid print. There's Oscar the Professional, in a room by himself, counting $100 bills that sit neatly in a suitcase. He counts for a long time, the way past one million, and never grows tired of his task. It is a cold picture, full of avarice and materialism and all the emotions that we regularly associate with boxing. It is all *too* human.

Where the first snapshot is as real as De La Hoya's feelings, the second picture is more of

De La Hoya has been perfect inside the ring, winning all 11 of his pro bouts, including this February 1993 fourth-round stoppage of Curtis Strong.

composite or an artist's rendition. But perception can become reality, and in the minds of many, the "Golden Boy" has become tarnished by gold.

Some things haven't changed. On March 5, De La Hoya is still scheduled to face Jimmi Bredahl at the newly renovated Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles. But in December, the unbeaten gold medalist's image suffered when he pulled out of an ESPN-televised fight card in New York City and fired his co-managers, Steve Nelson and Robert Mittleman. The issues: money and control.

"The kid called me on Saturday [five days before the bout] and said he didn't want to fight because he wasn't into it," said promoter Bob Arum.

The split between De La Hoya and his managers came suddenly, and only days before they were to sign a multi-fight deal with HBO for a reported $7.5-million.

"This is a move we had to make," De La Hoya said in Los Angeles during his only meeting with the press. (When asked whether the fighter would be available for this story, THE RING was told by a De La Hoya spokesperson that he wouldn't be doing any interviews "until the new year.") "First of all, [Nelson and Mittleman] did not do what they promised in the contract. Breach of contract. It was something that we really thought about. It's going to be so much better for myself.

"They've breached the contract so many times—we found out they had no money to support what they had to do. It was a very, very tough decision. But I put my foot down and that's it.

"When they breached the contract once, I wasn't happy. But they're such smooth talkers, they pressure you so much. Me, I'm a kid of 20—I was 19 back then. What can I say? I could never say no. I'm a nice guy. It's a case of two people coming from New York, giving me $1-million. They didn't come through and messed me over."

Nelson and Mittleman, of course, tell a different story. The partners, who signed De La Hoya to a five-year deal shortly after the Olympics, claim he was swayed by a payment of as much as $1.5-million—cash—made by an unnamed source. Nelson and Mittleman have filed a $10-million suit against

(Continued on page 58)

Team De La Hoya in happier times. From left: co-manager Steve Nelson, trainer Robert Alcazar, co-manager Robert Mittleman, promoter Bob Arum, cutman Chuck Bodak (obscured), along with Nevada referee Mitch Halpern.

With files of more than three million black-and-white and color negatives, THE RING magazine photo collection is by far the largest in the world. Each issue, we'll pore through the files to bring you some of the most unique boxing photographs ever taken

Time Capsules

By Stanley Weston

BOXING'S CROWN JEWELS

(September 22, 1930)

When New York City's famous Stern Brothers Department Store decided to make boxing memorabilia the theme of a promotion for its sporting goods department, the country was scoured for rare ring treasures. The result was a remarkable collection culled from collectors, museums, and even musty attics. To give the exhibition authenticity and class, who better than to be official host than "Gentleman Jim," the classiest of all boxers and the conqueror of John L. Sullivan, former heavyweight champion James J. Corbett.

On opening day, Corbett, still in remarkable physical condition and impeccably attired in a dark pin-striped suit, chatted with hundreds of curious spectators as they scanned the exhibits, many asking Jim the inevitable question: "How would you have done against Dempsey?" The old champion smiled that infectious grin for which he was so famous and gave the stock reply: "The best I could."

When posing for press photographers Corbett suggested a shot of Charlie Mitchell's famous solid silver belt draped over his shoulder.

"Charlie Mitchell was probably the best man I ever fought, and this was his championship belt," Jim explained. "He was a rather short, stocky Englishman. He fought John L. Sullivan twice, and from every report I've ever seen Charlie won both fights.

"After I won the championship from Sullivan, my first title defense was against Mitchell, down in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1894. Charlie was past his peak, so I was lucky to save my title."

Corbett handled the precious relic with great tenderness and added, "This belt was auctioned off in a war bond drive in 1917. It brought just under $1.5-million."

Some of the treasures, removed from display cases and heaped on top of a cabinet for photographic purposes, are the gloves that had been used in major fights by Dempsey, Mickey Walker, Gene Tunney, and Max Schmeling. The three championship belts belonged to Dempsey, Benny Leonard, and Pancho Villa.

Upon leaving the exhibition, one man was heard to say, "There are a lot of guys who would kill to own some of these things." Nobody disputed him.

DICTATORS COME AND GO, BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE "KEED"

(December 11, 1953)

Dictators are no fools. They all know a sure way to enhance public confidence and their own image is to try and muzzle in on the fanatical adoration their subjects shower on the nation's sports heroes. Cuba's strongman president, Fulgencio Batista (right), was a boxing fanatic, often seen cheering wildly from a tightly secured private box while enjoying the fights at New York's famous Madison Square Garden.

Cuba's national hero was the brilliant welterweight champion of the world, Kid Gavilan. So when the day came to honor the memory of the man who had long ago led the nation's fight for independence, Antonio Maceo, Batista would not take no for an answer after "inviting" the reluctant Gavilan to stand by his side on the podium while reviewing the dazzling parade that snaked its way through downtown Havana.

As you can clearly see, the Kid had to force a smile to acknowledge the whooping cheers. Perhaps he sensed that a young, bearded rebel named Fidel Castro was watching from the surrounding hills.

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

(January 1, 1926)

At precisely 12:25 in the afternoon on New Year's Day, 1926, the middleweight champion of the world, Pittsburgh's Harry Greb, walked briskly and unexpectedly into the offices of the New York State boxing commission in downtown New York City.

"I'm here to find out if my New York license is still good," Harry told the astonished clerk behind the desk. Harry was twisting the truth. Things like licenses, ethics, and rules never concerned him. His real mission that day was to sneak a look at a young Californian named Dave Shade, a highly touted, uniquely skillful middleweight whom Greb was convinced would soon be his ring foe.

Shade was red-hot, fresh off a sensational knockout of the great Jimmy Slattery and a masterful performance against welterweight champ Mickey Walker. Now Dave had just completed the weigh-in for his fight with journeyman British middleweight Roland Todd, scheduled at the new Madison Square Garden on New Year's Day. As he was leaving the commission's office, Shade (left) bumped into Greb, just as Harry had planned it. When Dave recovered from the shock, they exchanged compliments and both complained about New York's frigid weather.

"Will you be at the fight tonight?" Shade asked.

"Won't miss it," Harry said. "You know that I'm gonna fight this same guy in less than two weeks in Toronto." Shade was astonished. "No, I had no idea. I guess you'll be at the Garden to scout him." Greb's face split into a wide grin. "Him and somebody else," the champion replied.

Shade was in for another big surprise when he climbed into the ring that night. As his cold blue eyes scanned the crowd he saw Greb not with the spectators, but in the very front row, right next to one of the judges.

"It made me uneasy to see Greb sitting there, practically inside the ring," Shade would say after outclassing Todd and romping to an easy 10-round decision. Dave was, in fact, accused by the press of carrying Todd so he wouldn't reveal all of his secrets. Shade never denied that accusation.

Eleven days later, Greb plastered the same courageous Todd through 12 rounds in a non-title sham. Regrettably, Greb's strong intuition that he would eventually fight Shade proved wrong. Less than 10 months after he had watched Shade wallop Todd on New Year's Day, the immortal Harry Greb was dead.

UNVEILING A NATIONAL SHRINE

(November 10, 1956)

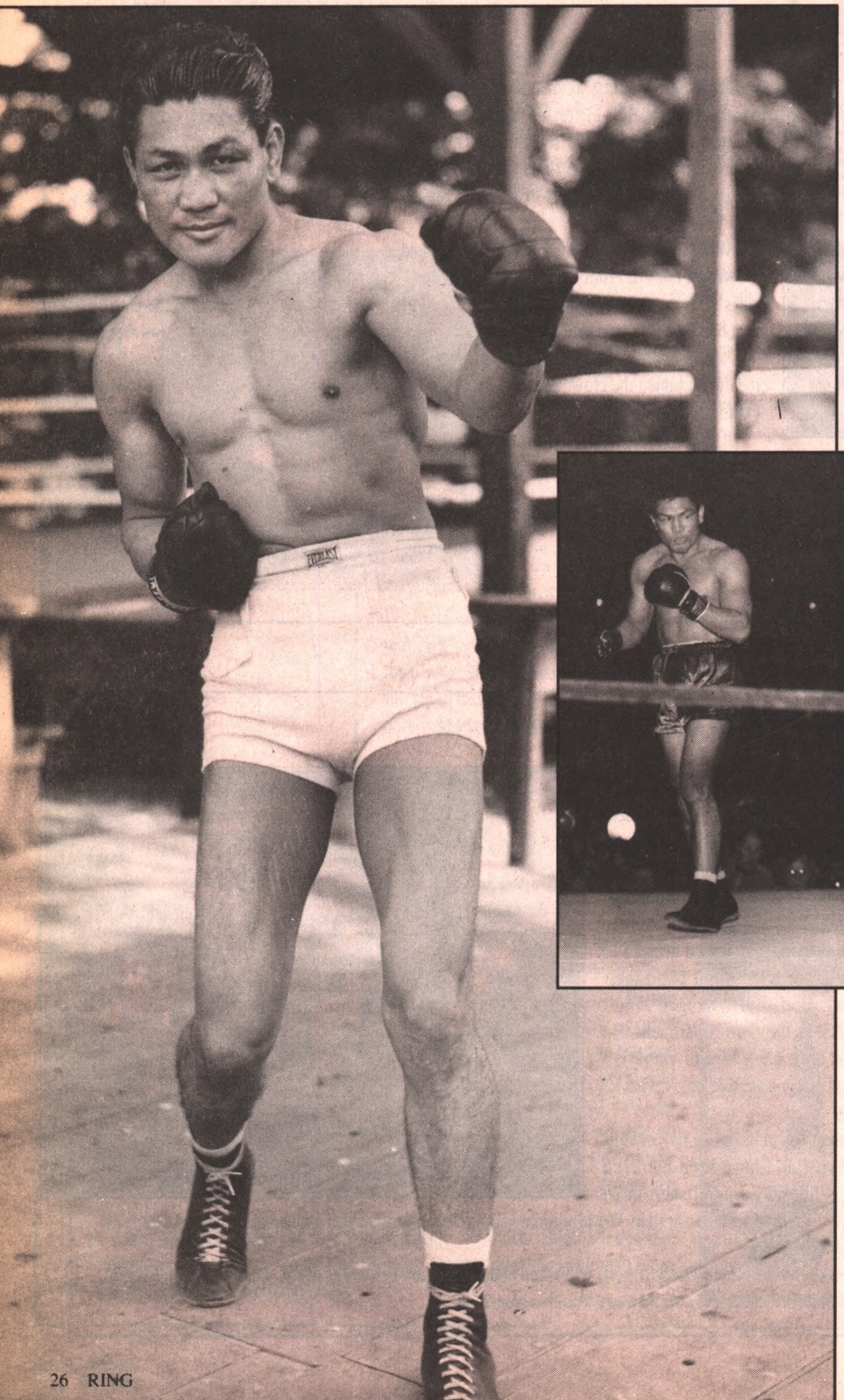
THE RING Publisher Nat Fleischer (center) poses with the Darcy brothers after unveiling a plaque in memory of Les Darcy in Maitland, Australia. Darcy earned, and unquestionably deserves, all the descriptive tags hung on supermen: great, brilliant, unbelievable, in a class by himself, remarkable. Such tags are usually reserved for the likes of Fitzsimmons, Ketchel, Dempsey, Greb, Louis, Robinson, and Marciano. But what really puts Darcy in a class by himself was the incredibly short time frame of his career and life. While those other icons needed decades to hone their super talents and build their reputations, God short-changed James Leslie Darcy in the time department. He was given only six years to establish himself, and no time at all to enjoy what he had earned.

Les Darcy was in his grave five months before what would have been his 22nd birthday. What he accomplished in so compressed a lifetime—the Australian World middleweight champion was the winner of 13 consecutive title fights—is almost beyond belief.

The last known picture of Darcy (insert) was taken about one week before his death, which came on May 24, 1917, in Memphis, Tennessee, a world away from his homeland.

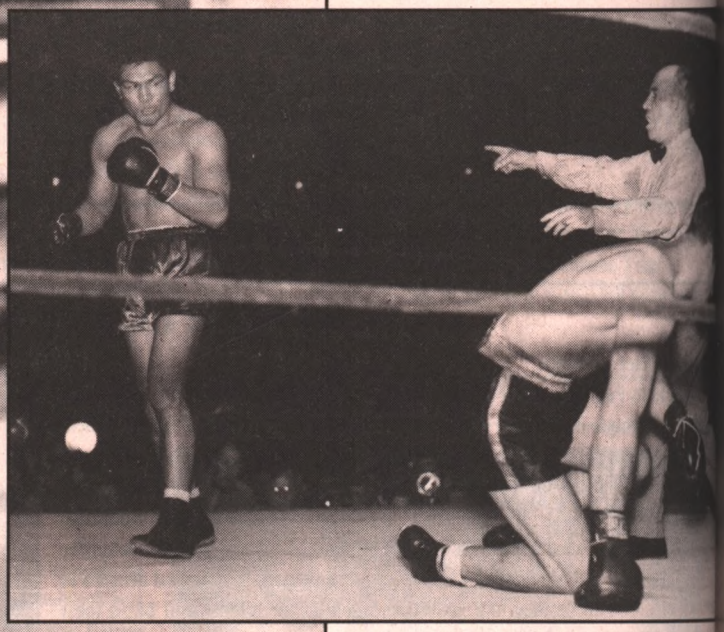
Going Home A Hero

HOW CEFERINO GARCIA FINALLY REALIZED HIS DREAM



By Roger Mooney

It was a typical fall in New York C... Everybody was talking sports. The Yank... were in the World Series against ... Cincinnati Reds. On the college gridir... Fordham, a four-point favorite, was bracing ... Alabama. And there was a title bout at Madi... Square Garden. In the neighborhood watern... holes and barber shops, and on the streetcorne... the World Series was the hottest topic. Unle... you were Ceferino Garcia and you were in to... only a couple of weeks for the middlewe... fight against Fred Apostoli. *Your* fight. Then y... had a plan that stretched beyond the Series, ev...



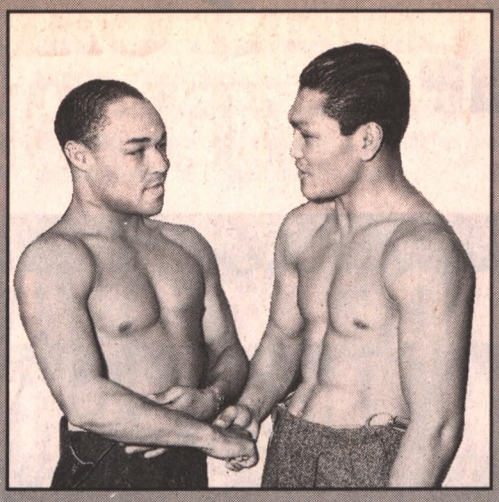
Garcia realized his dream by stopping Fred A... ostoli and winning the world middleweight ti... at Madison Square Garden in October 1939.

if the Yanks and Reds went the seven-game d... tance.

If you were Garcia, your thoughts start... with Apostoli and ended on the other side of t... world. Back in the Philippines, back to Manil... where it all started, and hopefully, where it ... would come to fruition.

If you were Garcia, you couldn't name t...

ARMSTRONG-GARCIA: THE LUCK OF THE DRAW



On March 1, 1940, 22,000 fans jammed their way into Los Angeles' Gilmore Stadium to witness Henry Armstrong's attempt at winning a record fourth world title. "Homicide Hank" was looking to add Ceferino Garcia's middleweight belt to his collection, which at one time or another included the featherweight, lightweight, and welterweight crowns.

In their first fight, November 1938, defending welterweight titlist Armstrong rallied in the late rounds and won a 15-round decision. Two years later, the roles were reversed, with Armstrong the challenger. Though Armstrong was giving away 11 pounds, his ability to crowd Garcia and defuse the Filipino's famed bolo punch convinced the experts history would be made.

The bout went the 10-round distance, with each stanza bloodier and more savage than the one before it. Armstrong was on the attack at the final bell. He won the last round without question; tired and bruised, Garcia was pinned in a corner and doing little more than defending himself.

Those in attendance waited for the expected announcement ... "The winner and *new* middleweight champion ... Henry Armstrong!"

It never came. In what one observer later wrote was "a great fight with a poor ending," referee George Blake ruled the fight a draw. Blake left the ring without rendering a verdict. It wasn't until he was tracked down in his dressing room that he made his decision public.

"At the end of the fight there was no demonstration by the crowd because no announcement of the outcome was made," wrote a reporter for the Associated Press. "It gradually reached the spectators by word of mouth as it was passed along from where Blake had retired to wash off the blood he had absorbed from both fighters."

Both fighters returned to their dressing rooms claiming victory. Blake later said Armstrong's fouling tactics had counted heavily against him. The challenger had twice been warned for illegal use of his head in clinches, and he lost an entire round for punching low.

The United Press scored for Armstrong 6-2-2 in rounds.

The fight was shrouded in mystery almost from the get-go. It was postponed one week to allow Garcia time to heal a painful boil on his leg. Some felt this was the Garcia camp's attempt at gamesmanship; the first bout had been delayed while Armstrong recovered from a back injury he later admitted was fake.

"I wasn't really hurt," he said several years after the fact. "At least not bad. I had trouble getting in shape. I knew I wasn't right when I wound up training. My manager knew it, too. So did the newspapermen."

So, too, did Garcia and his manager, George Parnassus. Yet Garcia's injury was no fake. Evidence of the boil could be seen as the champion entered the ring.

Fifteen years after the fight, Armstrong disclosed he had been offered $15,000 to take a dive. "Just go down in the third round as though he knocked you out; that's all you have to do," were the instructions.

"I told them I wouldn't do it for a million," said Armstrong. "I told them I was going to get in there and fight as hard as I knew how. If Garcia heat me, he was going to have to do it with a real knockout."

Armstrong also skirted the rules when he weighed in wearing a water-soaked towel around his waist and two lead weights taped to his hips. The California commission required all boxers to be within 12 pounds of their opponents. With the heavy towel and weights, Armstrong scaled 11½ pounds less than Garcia.

Once the bell rang, the fight lived up to all the hype. The action never stopped. Both fighters bled from the third round on, and Armstrong fought the eighth, ninth, and 10th with his left eye swollen shut.

Blake's decision, though met with some skepticism, did not come under much of an attack from either corner or the boxing writers. Wrote Eddie Borden in THE RING: "The affair could have been stopped on several occasions because of eye injuries suffered by either principle had referee George Blake desired to do so. Blake is an official who enjoys an impeachable reputation, and since he called the bout an even affair, you can be rest assured that was his honest opinion."

—RM

quarterback of Fordham or the first baseman of the Yankees. All you were thinking about was Christmas—sans the chestnuts and the open fires. A Christmas where you could walk down the street, your new bride on one arm, your world championship belt on the other. It would be a Christmas of celebration, not for the holy day but for the holiday you had created. A nationwide festival, the kind accorded a warrior who went off to a foreign land and returned a conqueror.

"I left the Philippines in 1932 and said I never would come back until I was champion," Garcia had told a reporter several weeks before the Apostoli fight.

A seed was planted when, as a 10-year-old, Garcia watched countryman and flyweight champion Pancho Villa return home a hero with all the trimmings—countrywide festivals and a national holiday. Garcia wanted nothing more in life than to receive the same attention, to fulfill a childhood promise and be a hero to his people. He had his wife. Manila was his throne. He needed his crown. Only Apostoli stood in his way.

***

For much of his career, Garcia had been a bridesmaid. Good enough to give the champion a run for the title, but not quite good enough to finish the job. He was labeled an underachiever by a demanding press. He was big and tough and possessed one the deadliest punches in the game—his patented bolo punch. But he always seemed to come up short in the big one. He gave Barney Ross a beating in a bout for the welterweight title on the famed Carnival of Champions card in September '37. But it was the aging Ross who earned the decision. Garcia couldn't beat the old man, it was said afterward.

Some had Garcia favored in his welterweight

(Continued on page 59)

The Upset Of The Year

SIMON BROWN SHATTERS THE MYTH OF TERRY NORRIS

By Nigel Collins

It was boxing's answer to *It's A Wonderful Life*, the warm and fuzzy story of the holiday season, complete with a storyline worthy of Frank Capra. It's the tale of how an aging, long-suffering ex-champion battled back from adversity to knock the stuffing out of a young, conceited braggart. Watching the strange turn of events unfold was enough to make you wonder if somebody had spiked the eggnog.

Simon Brown was washed up. You could ask anyone. He was totally shot, a puncher who was now a danger only to himself. When Don King announced the twice-postponed match with WBC super welterweight champion Terry Norris was on for December 18, the media ripped the mandatory defense as another example of Norris inflating his reputation against a has-been. Then something completely unforeseen happened: Brown blew away Norris, winning the title and resurrecting a career that was colder than Stanley Ketchel's corpse. And you thought miracles only happened in the movies.

Not only was the 30-year-old former IBF/WBC welterweight champion a prohibitive underdog when he stepped into the ring to challenge Norris, he had a medical history that would have forced Ben Casey to consult Marcus Welby. After losing the welterweight belt to Buddy McGirt in November 1991, Brown spent five days in a hospital because of dehydration. When he was first matched with Norris in September '92, the bout was canceled the day of the fight after he complained of dizziness, chest pains, and shortness of breath. It turned out to be an inner-

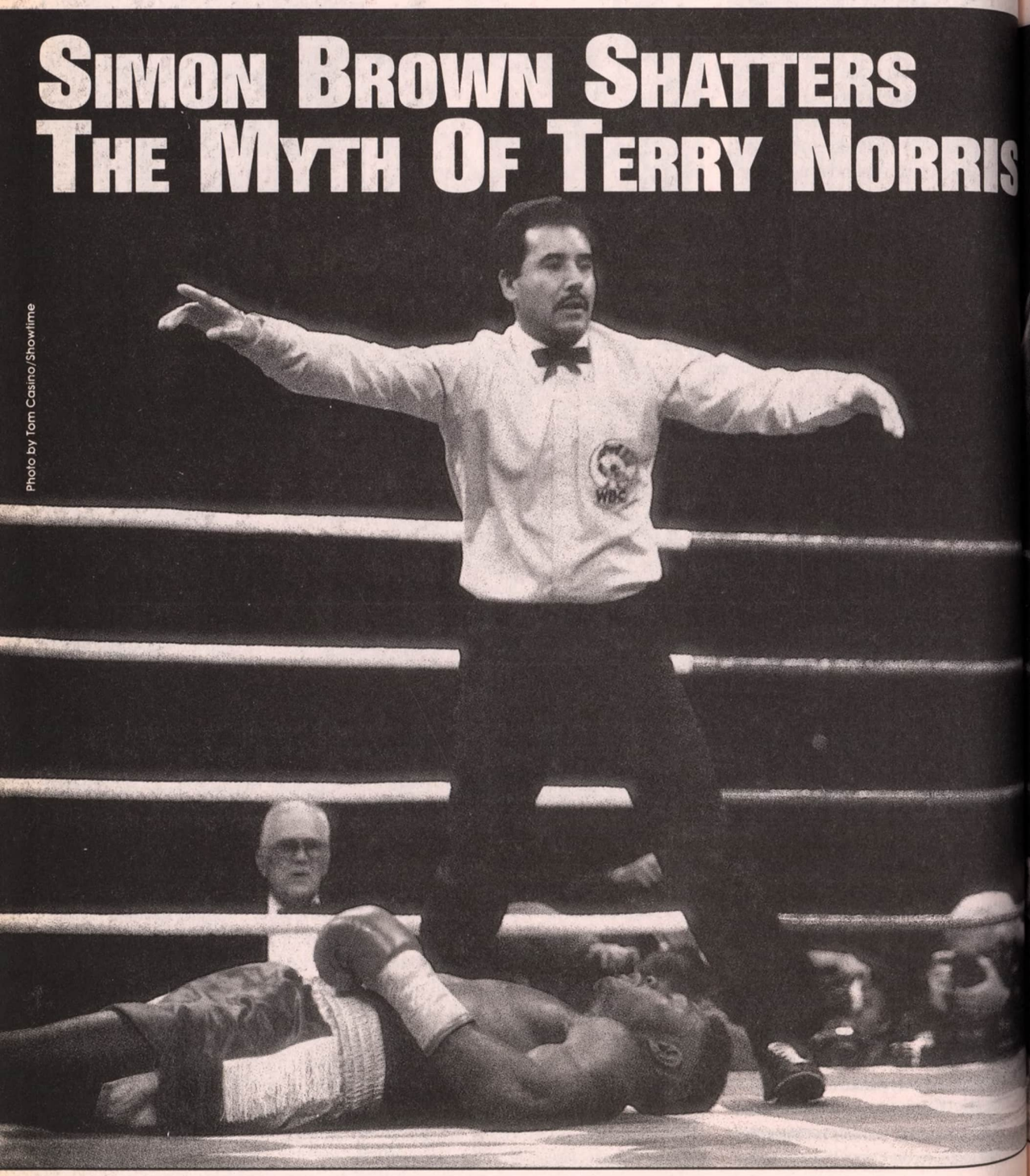


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Above: Before the bout, it was assumed Norris would pummel Brown and follow promoter Don King to greener pastures. But Brown was not to be dismissed. Below: Norris wished that instead of partially blocking this photo, referee Guadalupe Garcia got in the way of Brown's thunderous right hand.

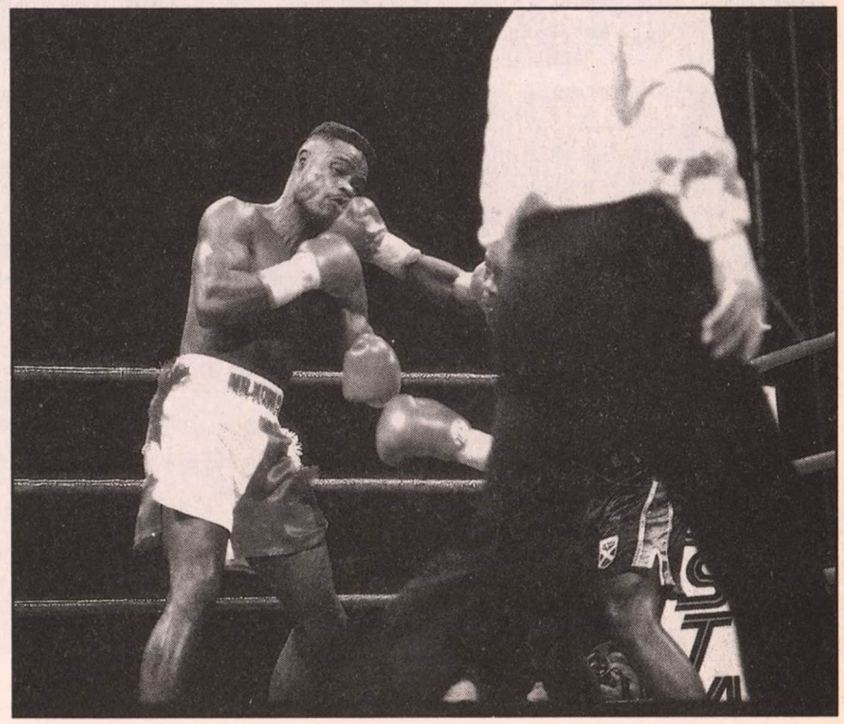


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

CHAVEZ SCORES KO IN MAIN EVENT

If Pernell Whitaker has the perfect style to make Julio Cesar Chavez look bad, Englishman Andy Holligan has the ideal style to make him look sensational. Therefore, it came as no surprise when WBC super lightweight champion Chavez won every second of every round before forcing the badly outclassed British and Commonwealth titlist to quit in his corner at the end of the fifth round. Their bout was the nominal main event on Don King's tripleheader in Puebla, Mexico, but paled in comparison to the excitement created when Simon Brown iced Terry Norris in the semifinal.

Chavez in a King-sized celebration

The fourth-rated Holligan, 21-1 (15), marched bravely—and face-first—to Chavez and was torn to shreds by a seamless volley of combinations. It was "J.C. Superstar's" first title fight since his controversial draw with Whitaker last September—he squeezed in a non-title kayo over no-hoper Mike Powell in October—and he obviously wanted to please the 30,000 fans who turned up at Cuauhtemoc Stadium to cheer him on.

Chavez, 139¼, Culiacan, Mexico, smoothly unleashed every punch in his repertoire, gradually disassembling Holligan, 140, like a mechanic taking apart a truck engine. Holligan's face was a bloody mess by the third, and when Chavez, 89-0-1 (77), erupted with a particularly cruel flurry the last 30 seconds of round five, the challenger's corner wisely saved the Liverpudlian from further abuse.

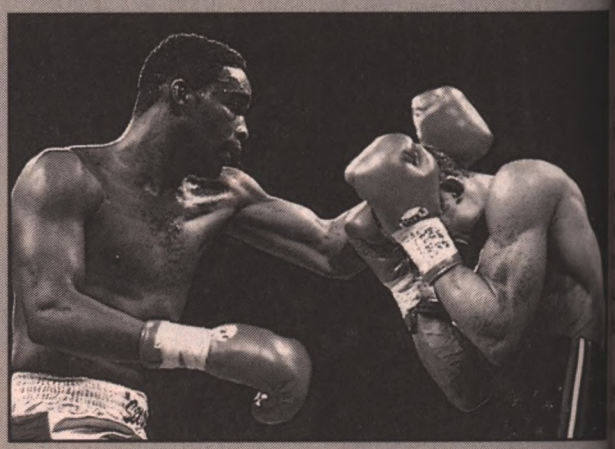
The referee was Arthur Mercante. The judges were Chuck Hassett (USA), Nicolas Hidalgo (Venezuela), and Dalby Shirley (USA).

Chavez is 26-0-1 in title fights. As we went to press, he was scheduled to make his 13th defense against top-rated contender Frankie Randall on January 29. Randall is a better fighter than Holligan, but still way short of Whitaker, and not much of a threat to spoil the Mexican hero's next step toward his goal of 100 victories.

***

WBA super middleweight champion Michael Nunn is so slick he makes ordinary fighters look like they're running up the down escalator. So it was with game but limited 28-year-old challenger Merqui Sosa, who lost a unanimous decision to Nunn by scores of 116-113 (Eduardo Luna and Marco Antonio Rodriguez) and 116-112 (Alejandro Rochin Mapula) in the first of King's trio of title bouts in Puebla. All three judges are from Mexico. It was the champion's fourth defense.

If anything, the judges were generous to Sosa. The 30-year-old Nunn, 168, Davenport, Iowa, won as he pleased, easily circumventing most of the challenger's crude offensive efforts. The Brooklyn-based Dominican pressed throughout, but was seldom able to land more than one punch at a time. His work lacked passion and imagination, and that allowed Nunn the dictate the pace.



Nunn too much for Sosa

Nunn, 42-1 (27), was forced to lose seven pounds the night before the fight, but that seemed to have very little effect on his performance. He moved just as well in the 12th round as he did in the first. There was much steam on his punches, but they sure were pretty to look at, and he often put them together in dizzying five- and six-shot combinations.

The 10th-rated Sosa, 165½, 22-4-1 (18), was penalized a point by referee Julio Cesar Alvarado (Panama) in the 10th for hitting after the bell. This prompted Nunn's former trainer, Joe Goossen, who was working Sosa's corner, to throw a tantrum. It was the closest thing to excitement the fight produced.

—M

ear infection, and the Norris fight was rescheduled for December '92. Then the serious stuff started.

Brown suffered a torn retina in training and the fight was postponed again. Things couldn't have gotten much worse, and a lot of well-meaning folks wanted the fighter to call it quits. He'd had a good career. Why push his luck? The low point came the day Brown woke up in Johns Hopkins Hospital following the surgery on his left eye.

"My eye was swollen shut and I felt terrible," said Brown. "I told my wife I was gonna give it up. I was thinking about opening up a West Indian restaurant. But after I came home, I started to shadowbox in the bedroom mirror. It felt good, so I decided to give boxing one last shot."

Of course, feeling good wasn't enough. Brown had been hospitalized for only 10 days, but the prolonged healing process kept his fate in doubt for months afterward. It was an agonizing delay—far worse than waiting for a decision to be announced.

"The doctor said it would be six months before we would know whether or not I could fight again," recalled Brown. "But God is great, after only four months the doctor told me I could fight."

Once he got the green light, Brown set out to prove he could still be a champion. Most people figured the best he could hope for was one more payday, a final whirl around boxing's big time before opening his restaurant. But there were others who had faith in him, those who still remembered the punishing, relentless fighter Brown had been before falling apart after struggling to make weight against McGirt. Among the handful of believers was Adrian Davis, a former welterweight journeyman-turned-trainer who had been one of Brown's earliest teachers.

"Adrian said I still had a lot left," said Brown. "He'd been with me off and on since I started boxing, but he couldn't get along with my other trainer, Pepe Correa. So rather than deal with the hassles, Adrian stepped aside."

With Correa long gone, the time was ripe for Brown to return to his roots. It was an old start to a new beginning, and according to Brown, things couldn't have worked out better.

"Adrian and I have a wonderful relationship," said Brown. "We're like father and son. We train hard and we play hard."

Even so, until Brown devastated Norris there was little evidence Davis had managed to rekindle the fire. Brown looked jaded in a series of tuneup bouts, just another former champion living on faded skills and borrowed time.

"After being champion so long, you have trouble getting up for the little fights," admitted Brown. "All you want to do is fight for the title again."

It's an old story, and there's probably a lot of truth to it, but going into the Norris fight, few people would have bought it. After all, Norris was on all pound-for-pound lists, invariably near the top. And if you listened to "Terrible Terry" tell it, anybody who didn't think he was number one should have been given a Rorschach test.

"I'm the greatest fighter in the world," proclaimed Norris after dispatching hapless Joe Gatti in September 1993.

Norris' manager, Joe Sayatovich, was more expansive.

"Terry is so far ahead of other fighters that he's the Michael Jordan of boxing," he said.

Having to come off the deck to beat clubfighter Troy Waters apparently did little to humble Norris, and his comments before the Brown fight clearly rankled the challenger.

"At the press conference, he said he was going to run through me like water through a pipe," recalled Brown. "Some people even said I was scared of him. But I was determined. Once I make up my mind I'm going to do something, I'm gonna do it. It all comes down to heart and mind."

When Brown, 153½, Mount Airy, Maryland, stepped into the ring at Cuauhtemoc Stadium in Puebla, Mexico, he'd already been south of the border for a month, training in both Mexico City and Puebla and acclimating himself to the altitude. For the first time in several years, Brown felt, and ultimately fought, like the dominating fighter he'd been during his heyday as welterweight champion.

Because of Norris' well-publicized rivalry with main event star Julio Cesar Chavez, the 30,000-plus fans on hand for the festivities were solidly behind Brown. The challenger seemed focused and in excellent condition, but Norris, obviously striving to impress, rushed to the attack, forcing Brown backward with a rapid-fire assault. It looked like everything was going according to expectations.

"I trained for him to run," said Brown. "But when he came out firing, it played right into my hands. I'd studied tapes of him for a whole year, and I knew I was going to get hit. Most guys he fights are scared to death and don't punch back. But Simon Brown is going to punch back."

As the opening round drew to a close, Brown unloaded a piledriver of a jab that rammed into Norris' nose and sent him sprawling to the canvas. It was like seeing Katerina Witt fall on her butt at the Olympics. You knew it was possible, but you sure weren't expecting it. Shaken and embarrassed, Norris, 151½, Campo, California, scrambled up at the count of four. Fortunately for him, the bell rang before Brown had a chance to follow up.

The knockdown instantly confirmed everyone's worst suspicions about Norris' ability to take a punch. His chin has been questioned since he was starched by Julian Jackson in 1989. Doubts resurfaced when he visited the canvas before stopping Waters. But to fall from a *jab*!

"My jab is like a right hand; it's very heavy," said Brown. "I don't just push it out there like some guys. I send it out there to hurt you."

Undaunted and obviously anxious to make

(Continued on page 60)

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

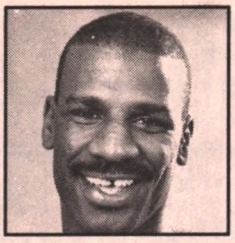
Brown is again a world champion—and King is right behind him. The soft-spoken veteran overcame a slew of physical problems before making his mandatory challenge of Norris, and surprising the world with the result.

BATTLE of the LEGENDS

Light Heavyweights

Michael Spinks

St. Louis, Missouri
Career: 1977-1988
31-1 with 21 kayos

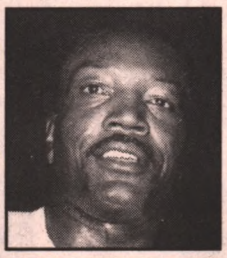


Spinks gained international prominence at the 1976 Olympics, where he joined brother Leon, Leo Randolph, Howard Davis Jr., and Sugar Ray Leonard as U.S. gold medalists. He had no intention of turning pro, but after tiring of inhaling fumes while working in a factory, he returned to the gym. A clever and awkward boxer with a potent "Spinks Jinx" right cross, he won the WBA light heavyweight title by outpointing Eddie Mustafa Muhammad in July 1981. He unified the title 20 months later by edging WBC champion Dwight Qawi. In all, he made 10 defenses before rising to heavyweight.

In September 1985, Spinks decisioned IBF champion Larry Holmes. It was the first time a reigning light heavyweight king dethroned the heavyweight titlist. After two defenses, he was kayoed in one round by Mike Tyson. He hasn't fought since, though rumors of a comeback continue to circulate.

Bob Foster

Albuquerque, New Mexico
Career: 1961-1978
56-8-1 with 46 kayos

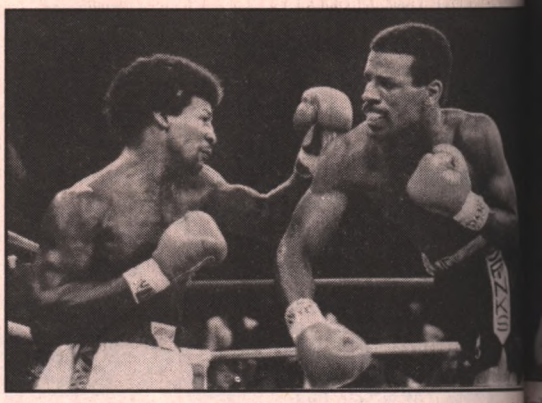


Like Archie Moore before him, Foster was deprived for years of a title shot. As a result, he often fought at heavyweight, where he suffered losses to such contenders as Ernie Terrell and Zora Folley. At 175 pounds, however, he was near-unbeatable.

Foster finally received his opportunity in May 1968, when he kayoed defending light heavyweight champion Dick Tiger with a single left hook. The 6'3" champion, who could dominate with jabs or powerpunches, reigned for seven years and made a division-record 14 defenses. In April 1972, he unified the title by crushing WBA champion Vicente Rondon in two rounds. He also defeated Mike Quarry and Pierre Fourie, and drew with Jorge Ahumada.

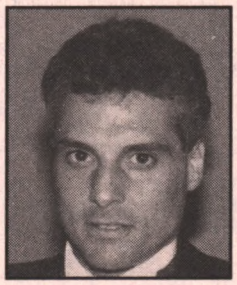
Foster is best remembered for losing efforts against Joe Frazier (KO by 2) and Muhammad Ali (KO by 8). While a disappointment against the big boys, he nonetheless dominated his division as thoroughly as any champion of his era.

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champ who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of the Legends," editors of THE RING *play matchmaker and pit two of the time greats against each other. Three experts serve judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd to see featured, please write to us.*



Spinks was a slow starter, but as Johnny Davis discovered in 1982 title try, once the light heavyweight champion found the ra with his "Spinks Jinx," he was a legitimate kayo artist.

WALLACE MATTHEWS

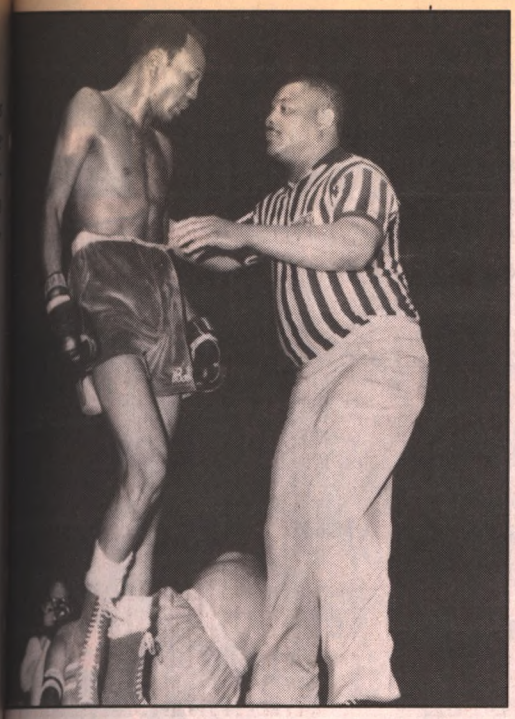


Foster was a heavyweight in a l heavyweight's body. Psychologica he couldn't deal with heavyweights was beaten before the fight. But probably had more physical advanta than any light heavyweight in histo Foster would jab and hook, a remember, he was vicious. He did like Vicente Rondon and almost kil him. He was also awkward and hard to hit.

Spinks was a very slippery guy who fought out of fear m than anything else. That's why he threw so many punches. could jab a little bit and had power in his right hand, but I ne thought of him as a big puncher. Outside of Marvin Johnson a Dwight Qawi, he didn't face a great crop of fighters. Ed Mustafa Muhammad was past his prime when Spinks fought h and Qawi was made for him.

Stylewise, this would be a mismatch. Spinks would have to to Foster because if you gave Foster leverage, he'd knock y head off. Foster would keep Spinks on the end of his jab for long as he wanted and then knock him out. I have a lot of respe for Spinks, so I'll say Foster by kayo, but not until the seventh eighth round.

Wallace Matthews is a boxing writer and columnist f Newsday.



Familiar scene: Foster standing over his opponent. Referee Terry Moore points the champion to a neutral corner during his 10th-round kayo of Mark Tessman in June 1970.

Spinks digs to the midsection of perennial contender Yaqui Lopez during their intense 1980 battle in Atlantic City. Making his 14th pro start, Spinks scored a seventh-round kayo. Once he became champion, Spinks made 10 defenses.

ERNIE TERRELL

Foster was a complete fighter and a great puncher. If he had one weakness, he wasn't built to take a great shot. Most fighters who take it well are thick around the neck and shoulders, and Foster wasn't.

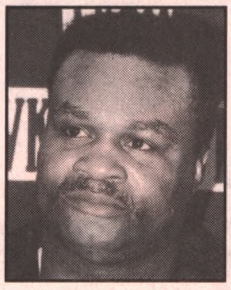
Foster was good behind the jab. It didn't give me trouble because I was taller than he was, but he was bigger than most of his opponents. In fact, for light heavyweights he was a physical mismatch. I remember we had a pretty good prospect in Chicago named Allen Thomas. Foster came here and knocked him out in one round (in 1964). The kid was never the same.

Spinks didn't dominate like Foster, but he fought better competition. Eddie Mustafa Muhammad and Dwight Qawi were both tough. Spinks was hard to figure out, but he was a winner, and he did whatever it took. He was also a very good defensive fighter. Foster would have had trouble hitting him with clean shots.

I'd give the edge to Spinks. With the exception of Mike Tyson, he took a heavyweight's punch, and Foster didn't. It would be Foster trying to land powerpunches and Spinks moving around. Spinks by split decision.

Ernie Terrell reigned as WBA heavyweight champion in the mid-'60s. In July 1964, he knocked out Bob Foster in the seventh round. Today he promotes boxing in Chicago.

EDDIE MUSTAFA MUHAMMAD



Both Foster and Spinks possessed a great punch, but Spinks was just a right-hand puncher, while Foster could knock you out with either hand. Foster had more leverage than anybody. He used his jab to perfection; he could turn on his hook, like he did against Dick Tiger; and he could drop in his short right hand. I studied him when I was coming up and I think he was the best light heavyweight ever, Archie Moore included.

Spinks could run, but he couldn't go backward by design because he had that bum knee. He'd try to lull you to sleep with his jab and then come over the top with the right. He also had a lot of tricks; his best combination was a hook, an elbow, a thumb, and an uppercut. He also wasn't a good finisher. He knocked me down, but I got up and went the distance with one eye.

Spinks would try and move in and out, and Foster would want to keep him on the end of his punches. Remember, outside of Vonzell Johnson, Spinks never fought anyone who had the advantages in height and reach on him. It didn't take long for Foster to figure out guys like that. Spinks would pay the price for coming in. Foster by knockout in about the fifth round.

Eddie Mustafa Muhammad reigned as WBA light heavyweight champion in the early-'80s. He was dethroned on points by Michael Spinks in July 1981. He is now among the leading trainers in boxing. ■

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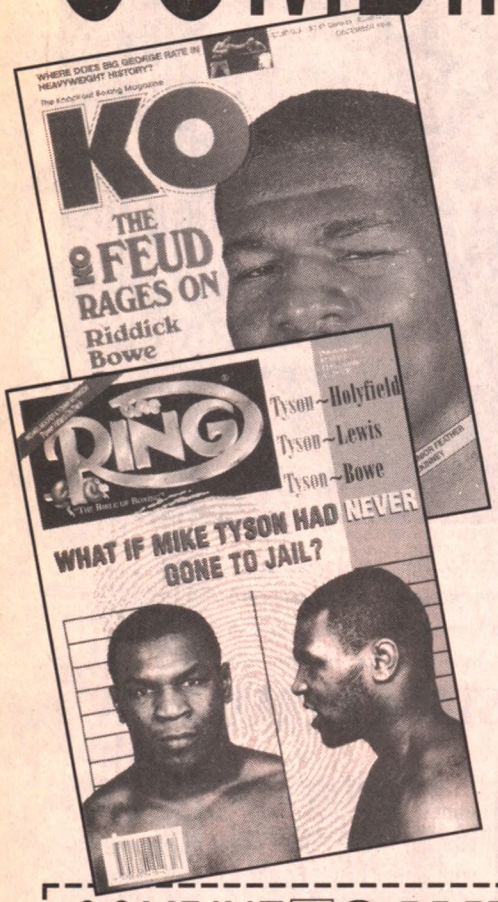

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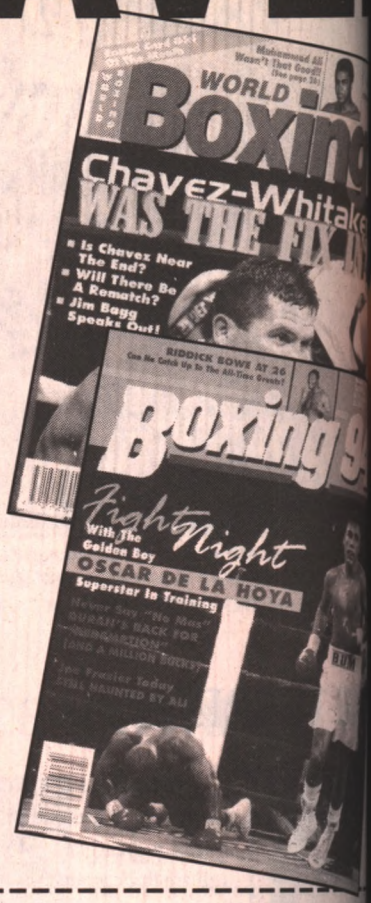

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KEVIN KELLEY:

THE FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMP WITH THE HEAVYWEIGHT MOUTH

Photos by Al Bello/Allsport

By Steve Farhood

Talk? Where does he find the time to *talk*? Kevin Kelley is seated on the edge of a chair at his kitchen table, chunky chicken salad on a doughy bagel barely tempting him. One moment he's changing the diaper of his two-year-old daughter Ashley and spraying gazes at his three other children. The next moment he's showing off his scrapbook and giving away his pencils and balloons. Okay, okay, so he'll *make* time to talk.

What about how he won the WBC featherweight title by outpointing Goyo Vargas in one of the best fights of 1993? What about the fact that his sterling performance has convinced HBO to televise some of the better lighter weight fighters?

"It was fun for me," Kelley begins. "Picking up the pace, slowing down, experimenting. I was very calm. He let me have my distance ... "

But Kelley is crowding his visitor. He hands over a pencil and a balloon. Don't forget the pencils and balloons. The pencil says, "Flushing's Own Featherweight Boxer, Kevin Kelley," and the balloon reads "Kevin Kelley, 'Flushing Flash,' Doin' It For The People." Out comes an application for the raffle Kelley recently conducted. Two bucks a pop, with the money going to the Dream Foundation, which helps the homeless. Top prize was dinner and a Broadway show with Kelley. (Transportation provided by Top Hat Limousine, with which Kelley is associated.) The 10 runners-up won a "Kevin Kelley's Posse" T-shirt, an 8x10 photo, and—you guessed it—a pencil and a balloon. Any color you wanted. Junior Jones' cousin finished third. "Imagine that," Kelley says.

Kelley, a southpaw, was masterful with his jab. Whenever Vargas moved in, the Mexican paid a hefty toll—first a jab, two, then a straight left. The challenger controlled the first half of the fight, before Vargas started to connect.

Anyone can appreciate a nice pencil, but about Vargas? It was such an exciting fight, ebb and flow and all that. Kelley had to get off the floor, and as Carl Moretti, matchmaker for Kelley's promoter, Garden State Boxing, put it, "He'll never have a tougher fight at featherweight."

Kelley is ignoring the bagel, and the fact that his one-year-old son Devin, who is nicknamed "Apple" (don't ask why; we can't afford any further digressions), has bounced off the living room rug. "As far as physical strength and power, he had the most, along with James Pipps. Pipps hit me on the arms and I had knots for two days ... "

Hold it. Time out. You like rap? Kelley and his wife Val (KeVal Entertainment) represent a rapper named Overdose. Just happen to have a tape. Overdose is playing the clubs in New York City. Don't let the name fool you. In the songs, all the messages are positive. But no music when it's boxing time. Kelley swears he didn't make a single music-related phone call while in Reno. Focus, you see. For Kelley, it only *seems* impossible.

Now getting back to Vargas: When the guy attacked, when he *really* attacked, he pushed Kelley back, hammered him to the body, seemed to grab the momentum almost at will. What about that?

"Those body shots weren't doing anything to me ... " The phone is ringing and Val, who runs the show, begins a low-tone conversation. Something about HBO and Kelley's next opponent. "... Didn't even feel the body shots. I wasn't tired. I used very little movement ... "

There's a bite of the bagel. A small bite, so Kelley can continue to use his tongue for a more pressing need.

Turning the conversation at the table the way he turned Vargas in the ring, it's back to the pencils and balloons. The merchandise he hands out, Kelley says, is a reflection of himself. Take welterweight contender Larry Barnes. His T-shirts are scruffy. Kelley's hats, on the other hand, are "of the finest quality."

Just wondering, Kev, but do you talk in your sleep? Remember, Val's here to confirm.

"I get ideas. Sometimes it's three in the morning and I wake up with an idea for my next boxing outfit ... "

Val nods knowingly. Arielle, 4, is climbing on a chair so she can reach the Frosted Flakes. The other kids aren't talking much. No sense competing with daddy.

"... I oversee all my robes and trunks. There's this velour material I like, but it's $20 a yard. Imagine, *$20 a yard!*"

Vargas? Who's Vargas? Kelley's manager is on the phone. HBO won't take Francisco Segura for defense number one in February. They want Jesse Benavides.

"Don't even want to *think* about boxing. What I do in my private time is *my* time. If I ... did my roadwork and trained, I'd lose my mind."

There's a whole world out there. Even if it's a little too small for Kelley.

***

In that steaming ring in Reno, Kelley was fighting for himself, but also for the other fighting guys, Kennedy McKinney, Tracy Patterson, Tony Johnson, Wilfredo Vasquez, Orlando Canizales, Ricardo Lopez, and his best buddy, Junior Jones.

KELLEY-VARGAS: FEATHERS, BUT NOT FEATHERFISTS

Reno, Nevada: Unbeaten Kelley, 125, Flushing, New York, arose from the first knockdown of his career to take a unanimous decision—and the WBC featherweight title—from Vargas, 126, Hidalgo, Mexico, before 3,275 fans at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. It was Vargas' first defense, and one of the best fights of the year.

Ranked first, the 26-year-old Kelley, 37-0 (26), had been waiting nearly two years for a title shot. He was supposed to have faced Vargas, 29-4-1 (20), in September, but the Mexican pulled out with an injury.

Kelley, a southpaw, opened by working behind a jab that stayed in Vargas' face all night. He added several right-left combinations, as well as an overhand left to the face. He boxed equally well in the second, even shaking the iron-jawed Vargas with a left and a right to the jaw. Vargas rebounded in the third, scoring with rights to the head and digging to the body. In the fourth he backed Kelley to the ropes, only to have the challenger fire back with a solid right to the chin.

After Vargas twice landed low in the fifth, Kelley used his jab to set up a big right. Near the end of the round he put together four punches, all of which landed flush. Kelley enjoyed a strong sixth as well, buckling Vargas' knees with one of several lefts. At the halfway mark, the challenger was working on a shutout on one card, and had won five of six rounds on the other two.

Kelley began the seventh with three jabs, then Vargas connected with a right that staggered the challenger. A left and right sent Kelley wobbling to the ropes, where Vargas unloaded a salvo of lefts to the body and rights to the jaw. Kelley seemed finished but fired back with enough impact to survive.

The seventh seemed a turning point, but Kelley's sharp punches had brought considerable swelling under Vargas' right eye. Early in the eighth, another Kelley left all but closed it. With Vargas struggling to judge distance, a weary Kelley did enough to win the round.

In the ninth, just when it seemed Kelley had survived the worst, Vargas landed a jab and straight right, and suddenly Kelley was on the floor. More embarrassed than hurt, he picked himself up at referee Richard Steele's count of three and fought back well.

The 10th was close, but Kelley took the 11th, during which Vargas missed often. The final round was a microcosm of the fight, with Kelley jabbing and landing lefts and Vargas moving in and scoring to the body. The final exchange saw Vargas stun Kelley with a right to the head and the New Yorker respond with a left that sent the champion into the ropes. Both were punching at the final bell.

Doug Tucker (USA) and David Chung (South Korea) both scored 115-112 and Omar Mintun (Mexico) 116-111. THE RING had Kelley ahead by 114-113.

"You don't know what it was like in there," Kelley told reporters. "He was a true champion; he kept coming back."

The fight grossed $155,600.

Promoter: Main Events

(12-4-93)

Steven R. Nicolaisen

By the late rounds, Vargas looked like a thoroughly beaten fighter. The champion punched until the end, however, flooring Kelley in the ninth and rallying in the 12th, before falling short on points.

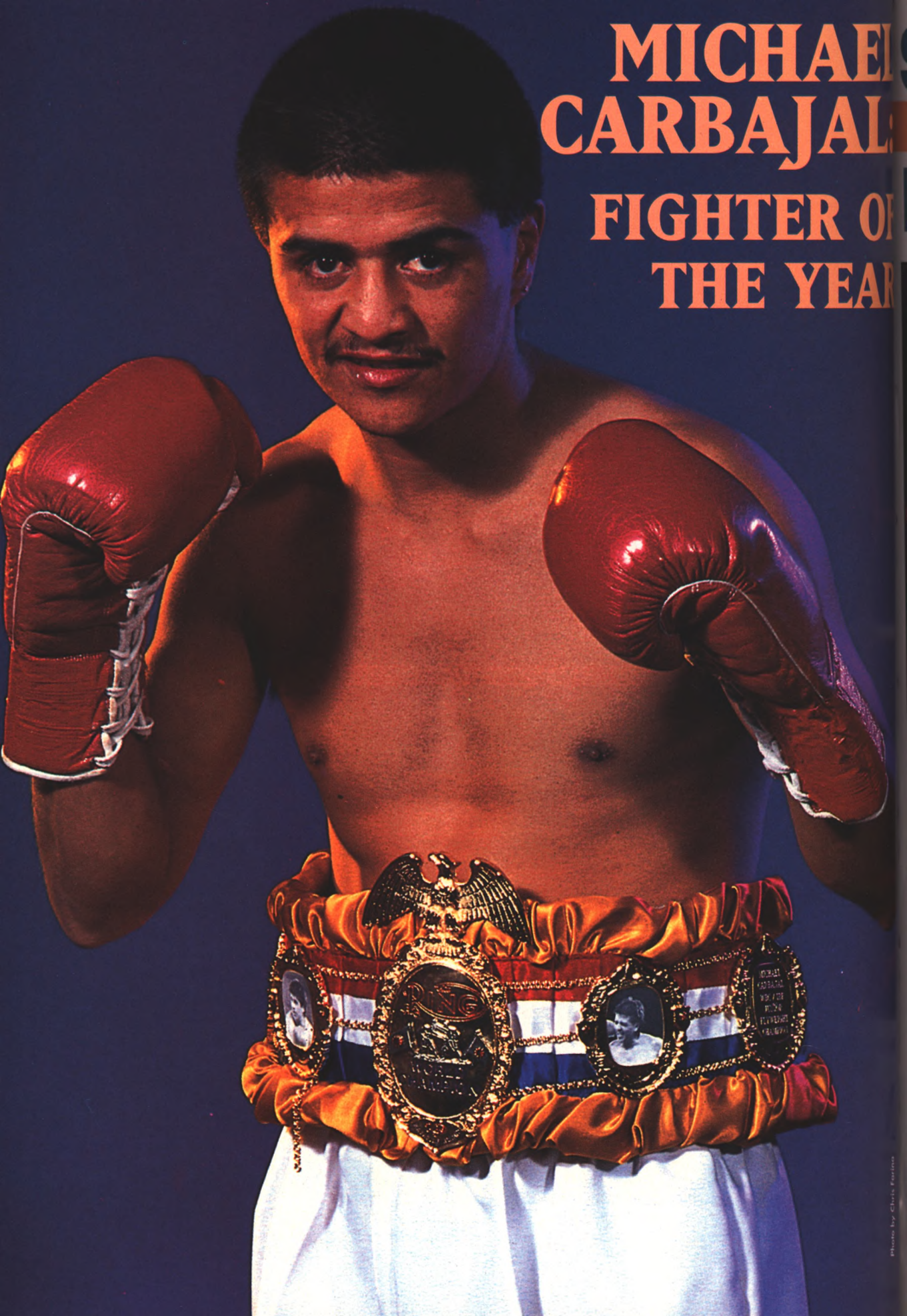
Kelley-Vargas, HBO's first featherweight bout since Salvador Sanchez-Rocky Garcia in 1982, was aired underneath a heavyweight 10-rounder featuring Michael Moorer. The network likes heavyweights not because they make for good fights, but because they make for good ratings. As HBO boss Seth Abraham likes to remind us, it's all about star potential.

"When a heavyweight makes $20-million," said Kelley, "he should have to give us a percentage of the money."

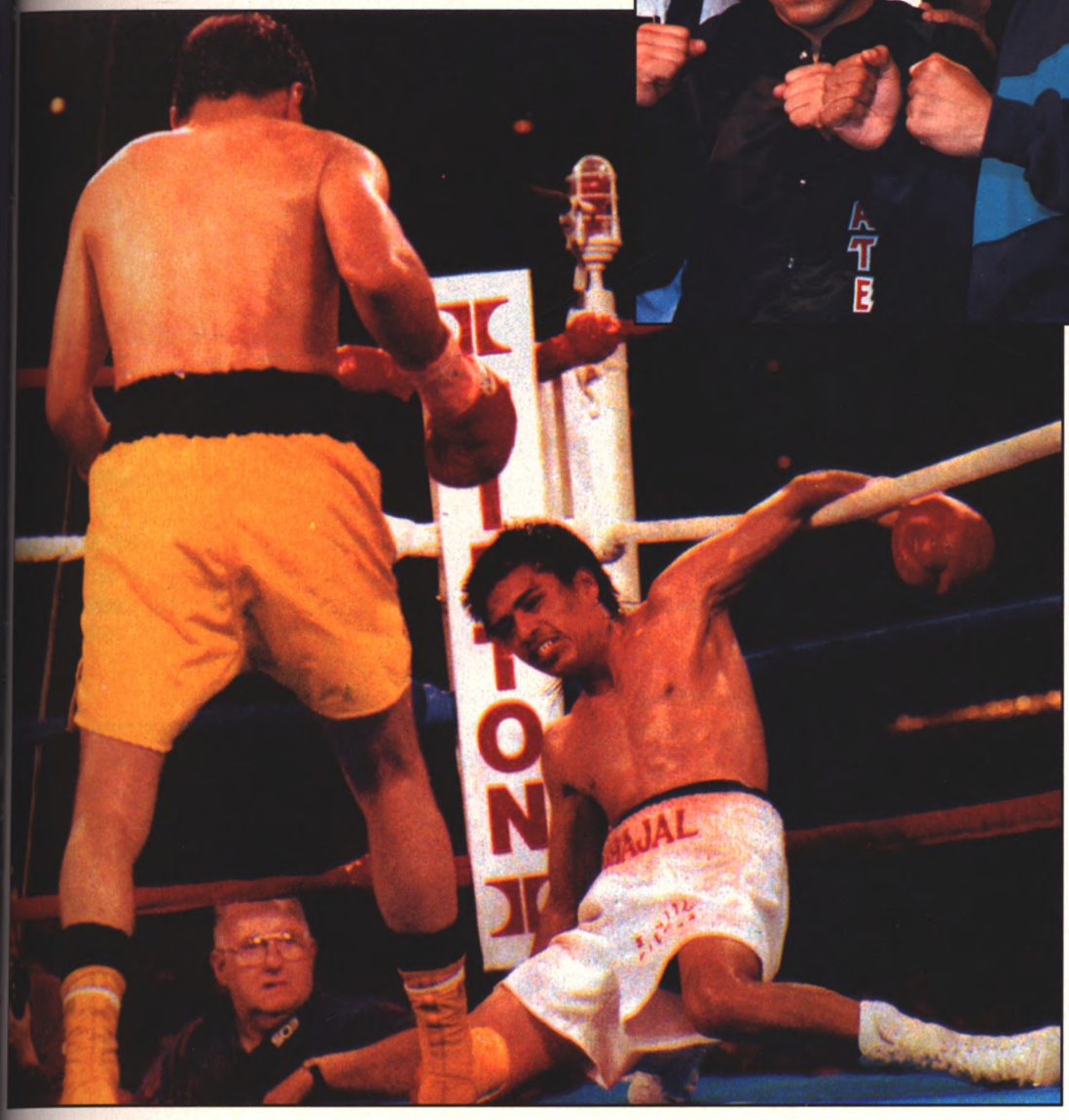
You know how good a bantamweight or featherweight has to be to secure even a modicum of national publicity? In Reno, the word was that if Kelley did well, both artistically and in the ratings game, HBO would consider a subtle but hardly insignificant shift of focus. The network was interested in Patterson-McKinney, and maybe Canizales-Jones, too. But Kelley-Vargas would be the litmus test. As it turned out, not only did Kelley do well, but what followed, Moorer's 10-round decision over survivor Mike Evans, put most viewers to sleep.

"Hopefully I opened the door for these guys," said Kelley. "Afterward, Junior said to me, 'Let's

(Continued on page 54)


MICHAEL
CARBAJAL
FIGHTER OF
THE YEAR

Score One For The Little Guys



The moment that made greatness: Carbajal is driven to the canvas by powerpunching Chiquita Gonzalez (left). "Little Hands Of Stone" picked himself up and, behind on all three cards, scored a dramatic seventh-round kayo. He and Gonzalez (above) have been rematched in one of 1994's most eagerly anticipated bouts.

By **Phil Woolever**

Michael Carbajal has redefined stature in the boxing world; when they talk about positive image, they're referring to someone worth looking *down* to.

The founder of THE RING, Nat Fleischer, certainly never looked down upon fighters of any size. When he established the Fighter of the Year Award in 1928, he did so with the idea that a Willie Pep belonged on the same plane as a Joe Louis. There wasn't as much concern about pound-for-pound distinctions because there weren't so many divisions to worry about. The best of the best may have clearly stood out, but even then only a fistful of the Fighters of the Year hailed from the lighter weights. Heavyweights and middleweights dominated the selections to such a degree that one might have concluded bigger *is* better. But whatever the weight, it's certain the recipients enjoyed banner years.

Carbajal's season of three thrilling brawls is as fine a ticket in as you can get. The 5'5½", 26-year-old light flyweight champion improved to 30-0 (18), and his trifecta against top-notch competition resulted in 19 of the year's best rounds. Along the way he secured his place among the game's few bankable pay-per-view attractions.

First up was the February classic most observers tabbed as the Fight of the Year, a fire-

MICHAEL CARBAJAL:

Through most of 1992, Michael Carbajal struggled to defeat modest opposition. He scored one decision victory after another, and observers began to wonder whether "Little Hands Of Stone" had peaked. Carbajal finished the year by knocking out the previously unbeaten Robinson Cuesta. Who could have predicted that he had just begun a stretch that might one day land him in the Hall of Fame?

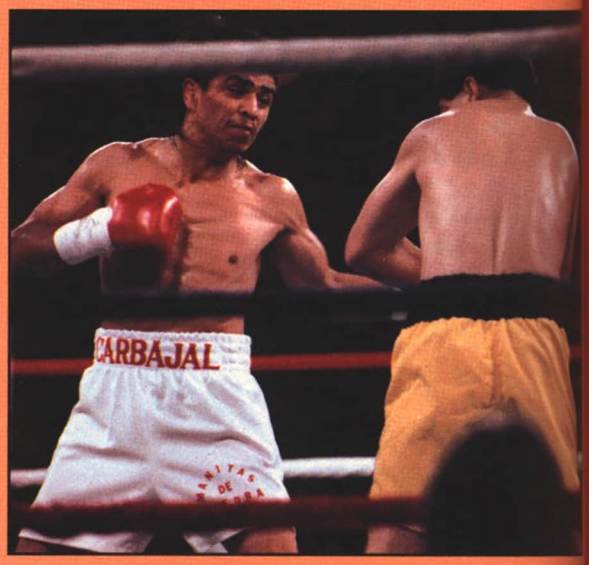
KO 7 Chiquita Gonzalez, Las Vegas, March 13, 1993: The most eagerly anticipated fight in the junior flyweight division's 18-year history pits IBF champion Carbajal against powerpunching WBC king Gonzalez at the Las Vegas Hilton.

The battle is so brutal and dramatic that it locks up Fight of the Year honors—with nine months remaining! Unsettled by Gonzalez' hand speed and switch-hitting tactics, Carbajal decides his only chance is to trade with his 5' Mexican opponent at close range. He pays a steep price for his aggressiveness, as Gonzalez scores a flash knockdown in the second and drives Carbajal down with a thunderous right hook in the fifth.

"When a fighter falls like that," says Danny Carbajal, the champion's brother and trainer, "it usually means he has nothing left."

In fact, Carbajal is just getting started. He weathers Gonzalez' followup assault in the sixth, then strikes with a hurting hook in the seventh. Just like that, Gonzalez' momentum disappears. Chiquita backs to the ropes, and with 15 seconds left in the round, Carbajal explodes with a perfect left hook. *Boom!* Referee Mills Lane counts out Gonzalez, who is ahead by four points on all three cards, at the 2:59 mark.

"I knew I was gonna come on," a fired up Carbajal says afterward. "I said to Danny, 'Don't worry, I'm bad.' I'm a strong guy. I'm like Bruce Lee. Look at me."



Against Chiquita, Carbajal hooked with a hooker

No problem, Michael. The whole world was watching.

KO 7 Kwang Sun Kim, Las Vegas, July 17, 1993: At the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, Carbajal won a silver medal. Competing at a different weight, Kim won a gold. Ranked among the greatest amateur fighters

fight against Chiquita Gonzalez at the Las Vegas Hilton. After six toe-to-toe rounds there weren't many people outside Carbajal's corner who were keeping the faith—despite what busloads of Phoenix fans claimed afterward. After Carbajal roared back to splatter his arch-rival, the delirious victor screamed a few profanities at the Mexican press, but it was a short-lived feud as even the Gonzalez faithful rushed to embrace a new idol. Hard-core Latin fans had viewed Carbajal as somewhat of a gringo because of his Olympic experience and golden boy image. The canvas land war proved his *juevos* and doubled a continent of fans—including Gonzalez. "He is very strong and very, very brave," said Chiquita.

Next up was a July encounter with South Korea's Kwang Sun Kim, whose 6-1 record belied his level of talent. Again the punches rolled like tumbleweeds until Carbajal unleashed the same seventh-round left hook that had erased Gonzalez. Carbajal had finally blasted all the way into boxing's mainstream consciousness, and the East Coast press was mentioning him with the very best pound for pounders.

Carbajal sidestepped the attention with typical rationale. "Chavez has proved more than I have," he said at the time.

It often takes an outrageous scene to define boxing's state of affairs. One such moment occurred after the Kim fight. The Caesars Palace press tent looked more like an undercard circus, with lightweight champion Freddie Pendleton and Rafael Ruelas huffing and puffing, and promoters Bob Arum and Dan Goossen pumping the hype. Jorge Paez, a loser to Pendleton, fit in perfectly as he danced shirtless on the podium, wearing a giant blue cowboy hat and a microphone cover for a fake nose. But when *Familia* Carbajal entered, everyone hushed and calmed down. Now that's influential dignity.

Carbajal's year-ending performance against Domingo Sosa in October was another showcase, and probably his easiest fight of 1993. That's if you call fighting a top contender while blood pours down your face easy. A clash of heads opened an eight-stitch divot where Carbajal had shaved a new-wave Mohawk. ("I lost a bet on the [Phoenix] Suns," he explained.) His image as a warrior was immortalized.

***

In '93, Carbajal ran his string of IBF pound title defenses to nine and scooped up WBC belt from Gonzalez. After Julio C Chavez stumbled against Pernell Whit Carbajal's name was thrust even higher boxing's best.

"I had a great year with great fights," said champion. (That's about as close to bragg he gets.) "It's an honor to hear myself menti Being named THE RING's Fighter of the Ye the highest honor, going back to all the gre fighters. It's something I never thought wo happen.

"Of course the fight with Chiquita stands a whole lot. I think that really proved m everybody, and that sure feels good. Not t that, the next two fights were impressive, too long as I keep fighting and training like I h I'll keep things this way for a while."

Carbajal's day-by-day philosophy can traced throughout his boxing odyssey. In prep tion for the '88 Olympics, the U.S. team tra

Photo by David Lee Wolfe

THE YEAR THAT WAS

in South Korean history, Kim has had only seven pro bouts. Among them, however, was a spirited challenge of Chiquita Gonzalez. Kim led on points when stopped in the 12th round.

Will Carbajal suffer a letdown after his emotional victory over Gonzalez?

"If anything he's *more* pumped up," answers Danny Carbajal. "Now he has *two* belts to defend."

At the Caesars Palace Sports Pavilion, Kim boxes from an awkward crouch and often leads with his head. The challenger forces Carbajal to work inside, and by the fourth round both fighters are marked; there is considerable swelling under Kim's right eye and a lump under Carbajal's left eye.

Somewhat desperate, Kim continues to attack. He takes the fifth and trades evenly in the sixth. But as was the case in his bout vs. Chiquita, Carbajal accelerates at an unexpected moment. After absorbing a right-left combo in the seventh, the champion backs to the ropes and fires a straight right. Shaken, Kim drops his guard, which allows Carbajal to follow with a sweet left hook. Kim collapses, then tries to rise too quickly. Stumbling and falling into referee Richard Steele's arms, the Korean is rescued at the 2:23 mark.

During a stretch from 1991 to '92, Carbajal scored six straight decision victories. In 1993, he's kayoed consecutive world-class opponents with one punch.

KO 5 Domingo Sosa, Phoenix, October 30, 1993: Carbajal's ninth defense comes on his home turf, before 15,800 howling fans at the America West Arena. Like Kim, Sosa is a former victim of Gonzalez. That title fight, however, is the only loss in the Dominican's 29-fight career.

Even when en route to a blowout, Carbajal can't help but create excitement. Starting faster than usual, the champion wobbles Sosa with a counter right, then floors him with a few body shots and a left hook to the head. The Dominican jumps to his feet and finishes the round with spunk.

The fighters clash heads in the second and Carbajal emerges with a wide cut on his forehead. "He's fine," says the ringside physician. The hometown hero nods in agreement and resumes issuing a terrific beating.

"That blood was dripping hard," Carbajal would later say. "Once in a while a big gush would go in my eye."

Carbajal pounds Sosa throughout the third. Willing to try anything, the challenger is twice penalized in the fourth, for holding and punching low. At the end of the round he grimaces as Carbajal punches freely. A split second before the bell, Miguel Diaz, the Dominican's chief second, begins to climb into the ring. Between rounds, however, Sosa talks his way into one last chance. It only prolongs the inevitable; at the 48-second mark of the fifth, referee Bobby Ferrara calls a mercy halt.

"It seemed like he was [fighting] just on instinct," Carbajal says of the game loser. "He wouldn't go down."

Carbajal's year has come full circle; at the postfight press conference he is seated next to Chiquita, whom he will meet in a rematch on February 19. Carbajal will be favored to again knock out his rival. But count on a couple of twists and turns along the way.

—Steve Farhood

Kayos over the likes of Eduardo Nunez (in June 1989) established Carbajal as a crowd-pleaser. The March 1993 knockout of Chiquita Gonzalez made him a star. Still, who could have imagined that, Riddick Bowe aside, he'd become the most marketable member of the Olympic class of '88?

at the Ft. Huachuca military base in isolated Arizona desert. One afternoon, Michael Spinks arrived to do commentary for a television project and scout future prospects with promoter Butch Lewis. When their huge white limo sped off toward the dusty horizon, most of the team watched with wide eyes and visions of professional sugar plums. Said Riddick Bowe, "I don't need no limo, but if I get rich I could sure take care of my family." Carbajal made an even more basic statement by choosing to remain in the gym and shadowbox.

Carbajal earned a silver medal in Seoul, though many believed his loss in the finals was an anti-American robbery. He took the silver with his chin held high. "Why dwell on it?" he said, and that was that. He used the Games as the usual marketing springboard, but forged a professional persona earlier than most and never looked back. Arum signed him along with some of the other Olympic stars. When the new crop was introduced to the big time on the undercard of the Leonard-Hearns rematch, the lightest man got the heaviest response.

Later that year, Carbajal co-headlined with Ray Mercer and Tommy Morrison on an ESPN card in Phoenix. When Carbajal stole the show, the rest of the nation saw what the locals already knew about the relationship between size and action.

Arum did an admirable job advancing Carbajal, but much of the credit should go to former bantamweight champion Richard Sandoval, who had to pull off a major sales job to get Carbajal signed in the first place. Arum learned quickly and was soon touting Carbajal as the first million-dollar flyweight. It was nice to hear, but it also became a burden; Carbajal was expected to look like a monster every time out. In the ranks of the talent-thick mini-mites, however, that was all but impossible.

Carbajal took the IBF title from Muangchai Kittikasem in July 1990, and stopped his next four foes. But '91-'92 saw six straight decision victories, and the champion took heavy punishment from bombers like Jesus Chong and Javier Varguez. The purses shrunk and the critics mumbled. That sure seems like a long time ago.

Carbajal reflects on his "slump" with a shrug. "People said I'd lost my punch, but I don't pay a whole lot of attention to praise, either," he said. "I just go about my business. As long as I win, I win."

The turnaround started with a stoppage of Jose Diaz outside of Chicago. Then came a homecoming TKO against Robinson Cuesta at America West Arena. It was an introduction to the march to glory.

THE RING'S FIGHTER OF THE YEA

Michael Carbajal is the 68th recipient of THE RING's Fighter of the Year award, the first winner under bantamweight. A complete listing:

1928: Gene Tunney
1929: Tommy Loughran
1930: Max Schmeling
1931: Tommy Loughran
1932: Jack Sharkey
1933: No Award
1934: Tony Canzoneri/ Barney Ross
1935: Barney Ross
1936: Joe Louis
1937: Henry Armstrong
1938: Joe Louis
1939: Joe Louis
1940: Billy Conn
1941: Joe Louis
1942: Ray Robinson
1943: Fred Apostoli
1944: Beau Jack
1945: Willie Pep
1946: Tony Zale
1947: Gus Lesnevich
1948: Ike Williams
1949: Ezzard Charles
1950: Ezzard Charles
1951: Ray Robinson
1952: Rocky Marciano
1953: Bobo Olson
1954: Rocky Marciano
1955: Rocky Marciano
1956: Floyd Patterson
1957: Carmen Basilio
1958: Ingemar Johansson
1959: Ingemar Johansson
1960: Floyd Patterson
1961: Joe Brown
1962: Dick Tiger
1963: Cassius Clay
1964: Emile Griffith
1965: Dick Tiger
1966: No Award
1967: Joe Frazier
1968: Nino Benvenuti
1969: Jose Napoles
1970: Joe Frazier
1971: Joe Frazier
1972: Muhammad Ali/ Carlos Monzon
1973: George Foreman
1974: Muhammad Ali
1975: Muhammad Ali
1976: George Foreman
1977: Carlos Zarate
1978: Muhammad Ali
1979: Ray Leonard
1980: Thomas Hearns
1981: Ray Leonard/ Salvador Sanchez
1982: Larry Holmes
1983: Marvin Hagler
1984: Thomas Hearns
1985: Marvin Hagler/ Donald Curry
1986: Mike Tyson
1987: Evander Holyfield
1988: Mike Tyson
1989: Pernell Whitaker
1990: Julio Cesar Chavez
1991: James Toney
1992: Riddick Bowe
1993: Michael Carbajal

"Everything's been going the way I hoped for," Carbajal said. "It's just surprising how it seems to have happened so fast. I give a lot of credit to Danny."

***

The Carbajals are exceptions to the boxing rule that, when applied to career leadership, even the best of family interests tend to go awry. The obvious line for trainer/manager Danny Carbajal is "he ain't heavy, he's my brother," but in truth, he and Michael have never been hindered by domestic baggage. They fit each other and provide support better than any sibling acrobats or human pyramid.

"It's been great since I was a kid," said Michael. "I know the reason I'm successful is because we work so well together. It's not like other families, where they argue and break up. I let Dan his thing and he lets me do mine. Where comes about is how I listen to everything h all the way until I'm done with the fight never have any arguments. I'm just happy in the ring and fight."

Added Danny with a smile, "Michael easy to train. It's like a dream come true fr too."

A walk around Carbajal's home helps the unassuming champion. He lives with h Martinez and their three children in his pa remodeled house, with Danny right next d an identical structure. Their well-maintai property sits in contrast to the run-down roundings, but they're old kids on the bloc have no intention of moving to greener pas Nobody comes begging, and despite the and poverty, Michael's new four-wheel dri safe on the street. The only distinguishing of prosperity are two gigantic satellite dishes make the backyard look like some sort of outpost. Michael the fight fan never mi match, and Danny the strategist never mi chance to add to his video library.

(Continued on pag

Photo by Marc Morrison

Carbajal is guided by his older brother Danny, who trains and manages the 108-pound champion. "I know the reason I'm successful," says Michael, "is because we work so well together."

'60s & '70s ISSUES

When Cassius Clay made his pro debut in 1960, *The Ring* was there. When "The Greatest" fought Joe Frazier for the heavyweight title in 1971, *The Ring* was there. Before Carlos Monzon, Jose Napoles, and Roberto Duran made names for themselves, the readers of *The Ring* were already talking about them. *The Ring* covered all the boxing events and personalities of the '60s and '70s as no other magazine could—and now a limited supply of back issues from those two decades are available for $10 each (including postage and handling).

June 1964: Joey Giardello: "I'm Young Again!" Plus: Cassius Clay, Floyd Patterson, Willie Pastrano, Carlos Ortiz.

July 1964: Will Bobo Olson Win Title? Plus: Polo Grounds, Cassius Clay, Willie Pastrano, Sugar Ramos.

Aug. 1964: Who Is Floyd Robertson? Plus: Max Schmeling, Griffith-Rodriguez, Dick Tiger, Olympic preview, Joey Giardello, Sonny Liston.

Sept. 1964: The Perils Of Patterson! Plus: Cleveland Williams, Laszlo Papp, Joe Stable, Carlos Ortiz.

Feb. 1965: Where Do Our Heavies Stand Now? Plus: James J. Braddock, Emile Griffith, Jose Torres, Willie Pastrano, Oscar Bonavena, Eder Jofre.

April 1965: Clay Clamors For White Hopes. Plus: Jack Dempsey, Jess Willard, Patterson-Chuvalo, Carlos Hernandez, Tony Galento, Joe Louis.

July 1965: Jose Torres, Puerto Rico's New Hero. Plus: Clay-Liston II prefight, Gene Tunney, Joey Giardello, Bonavena-Folley, George Chuvalo.

Oct. 1965: Will $$$ Still Lure Wilt? Plus: Jose Torres, Floyd Patterson, Joe Frazier, four ring hopefuls, Billy Conn, Liston-Clay, Flash Elorde.

Nov. 1965: Giardello Title Tenure Over? Plus: History of middleweights, heavyweight situation, Johnny Persol, Luis Rodriguez, Mathis & Frazier's pro debuts.

May 1966: Who Will Tame Dick Tiger? Clay-Terrell preview, James Norris, Emile Griffith, Vicente Saldivar.

Sept. 1966: France Claims Its First Welter Title. Plus: Ernie Terrell, Nino Benvenuti, U.S. vs. Britain.

Jan. 1967: Is Time Running Out On Terrell? Plus: Torres-Tiger preview, long count mystery solved, Carlos Ortiz, Cassius Clay, Zora Folley, Johnny Persol.

March 1967: Why Isn't Clay Fighter Of The Year? Plus: Year-end issue, 2,500 fighters rated, Tiger-Torres, Clay-Terrell, Curtis Cokes.

April 1967: Death Stalks The Tiger. Plus: Cassius Clay, Emile Griffith, Mike Jacobs, Barney Ross, Joe Clark.

May 1967: Cassius Clay: "Louis Clobber Me? He Must Be Joking!" Plus: Frazier-Jones, Floyd Patterson, Carlos Ortiz, Frazier-Mathis preview, Nino Benvenuti.

June 1967: They're Talking Frazier Now!!! Plus: Ali-Folley, Joe Louis, Ismael Laguna, Clay-Ellis?, Joe Gans.

Aug. 1967: Karl Mildenberger: Germany's Second Schmeling? Plus: Nino Benvenuti, Foster-Cotton, Curtis Cokes, Tiger-Torres II, heavyweight analysis.

Dec. 1967: Jack Dempsey Picks Next Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Griffith-Benvenuti II, Joe Frazier, Gans-McGovern controversy, Buster Mathis.

Jan. 1968: Corbett-Dempsey Computer Fight. Plus: Joe Frazier, Jerry Quarry, Jimmy Ellis, Thad Spencer, Vicente Saldivar retires.

Feb. 1968: The Quarry-Spencer Delay—Why? Plus: Bob Foster, Buster Mathis, Rocky Marciano, Jimmy Ellis, Dick Tiger, all-time heavyweight tournament.

April 1968: Spectre Of Clay Haunts Heavy Situation (painting by LeRoy Neiman) Plus: Transcript of Clay trial, Rocky Marciano, Ingemar Johansson, Bob Foster, Jerry Quarry.

May 1968: Quarry Revives White Hope Cry!!! Plus: Frazier-Mathis, Jimmy Ellis, Joe Frazier, Dick Tiger, Bob Foster, Nino Benvenuti.

June 1968: Boone Kirkman: Heavyweight Threat. Plus: Ken Buchanan, Sonny Liston, Ernie Terrell, southpaws, Nino Benvenuti & Frank Sinatra.

Sept. 1968: Foster: "I'm The Best Fighter In The World." Plus: Joe Frazier, Jimmy Ellis, Jack Dempsey, Manuel Ramos, Ortiz-Cruz, heavyweight enigmas.

Oct. 1968: Olympics Beckon To Seekers Of Heavyweight Riches. Plus: Joe Frazier, Sonny Liston, Joe Louis, middleweights, Buster Mathis.

Nov. 1968: Are Today's Fighters Overpaid? Plus: Joey Archer, Emile Griffith, Sugar Ray Robinson, Fritzie Zivic.

Dec. 1968: Is World Boxing Association Crumbling? Plus: Ellis-Patterson, George Chuvalo, Kid Gavilan, Bob Foster.

Feb. 1969: How Good Is Olympic Champ Foreman? Plus: Floyd Patterson, Emile Griffith, Freddie Little, George Chuvalo, Hall of Fame (Baer, O'Brien, Hyer), Lou Brouillard.

April 1969: Controversy Rages: Ketchel Or Robinson? Plus: Ken Buchanan, Joe Frazier, Jimmy Ellis, Bob Foster, computer fights, Buster Mathis.

May 1969: Frazier-Ellis—A Knockout For 1969! Plus: Mando Ramos, Bob Foster, cornermen, Marty Servo.

June 1969: Do Women Really Rule Boxing? Plus: Mando Ramos, trainers, Cassius Clay, Jerry Quarry, knockdown rule.

Oct. 1969: "How I'll Win" by Joe Frazier & Jimmy Ellis. Plus: What's next for Clay, Joe Bugner, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Mac Foster, Vicente Saldivar.

Nov. 1969: How Much Has Aging Liston Left? Plus: Ruben Olivares, Tommy Walsh, Battling Levinsky, referees.

May 1975: Ron Lyle: "I Only Lost A Battle, Not The War." Plus: Tiger Flowers, George Foreman, Lyle-Young, Frazier-Ellis, Quarry-Johnson, Johnny Baldwin, Tommy Rose.

Sept. 1977: Norton-Young: Winner To Fight Ali! Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard, Michael and Leon Spinks, John Tate, Palomino-Green, Galindez-Kates II, Wilfredo Gomez, Irish-American fighters.

Nov. 1977: Monzon Retires. Plus: Next middleweight king?, Arguello-Fernandez, Benitez-Guerrero, Mattioli-Dagge, Palacios-Muniz.

July 1979: Foreman Exclusive: Preach Or Punch? Plus: Mike Weaver, Jack Sharkey, Galindez-Rossman II, Franklin-Johnson II, Jorge Lujan, Watt-Pitalua, Chacon-Limon II, Conteh-Burnett, Leonard-Viruet, federal commission?

Sept. 1979: Is Holmes Ali's Successor? Plus: Holmes-Weaver, Duran-Palomino, Lopez-Ayala, Coetzee-Spinks, Pintor-Zarate, Tate-Knoetze, Kim-Guisseppi, Lopez-Ayala, Gomez-Hernandez, German greats, Rocky II.

NOVEMBER 1979

Nov. 1979: Leonard: Sweet Enough To Be Called "Sugar Ray"? Plus: Wilfred Benitez, Willie Pep, 10 worst heavyweights, Monzon comback?, Cuevas-Shields, Leonard-Ranzany, Muhammad-Conteh, Hilmer Kenty.

Dec. 1979: What's Next For Larry Holmes? Plus: Holmes-Shavers II, Pipino Cuevas, Thomas Hearns, Arum & King, Leonard-Price, Gomez-Mendoza.

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WHY BOXIN WILL NEVE FORGET

TUNNEY HUNSAKE

As police chief of Fayetteville, West Virginia, Hunsaker brought attention to his tiny town, population 3,000.

By Pete Ehrmann

The letters still find their way from all over the world to the comfortable Victorian-style house in Fayetteville, West Virginia, population 3,000, the capitol of Fayette County, a 50-mile trip from Charleston.

"We just got one the other day from Idaho," says Tunney Hunsaker. "It was the cutest letter from a little girl. She sent a whole questionnaire with it."

The amiable, good-humored Hunsaker, 63, did not win such far-reaching celebrity by serving as chief of police in Fayetteville for 36 years. In all that time, he never drew his gun from its holster. But he did clear plenty of leather as a heavyweight prize fighter some three decades ago, and on October 29, 1960, the fighting police chief won a permanent place in ring history by losing the fight that launched one of the most stellar careers in the annals of boxing.

Tunney Hunsaker was Ali's first.

"That's how I got in the headlines, and I been there ever since," says Hunsaker, wh addition to getting fan mail appeared on the g show *To Tell The Truth*, and was the subject o Paul Harvey *The Rest Of The Story* radio piece.

Born in Princeton, Kentucky, Tun Hunsaker, who was named after former hea weight champion Gene Tunney, was eight ye old when he first put on boxing gloves.

Hunsaker was little more than a courageous journeyman, but he'll forever live in boxing history because on October 29, 1960, he battled Cassius Clay over six rounds in Louisville, Kentucky. It was Clay's first pro bout.

"We had a once-a-year field day at school," he recalls. "I entered into a match and beat a guy bad. The next year I fought his older brother, a lot bigger guy than I was. I licked him, too. The next year I figured I'd have to take on the father, too, but that didn't happen."

As a young man, Hunsaker left the family tobacco farm to work in the Chicago steel mills, where the hard labor packed heavyweight muscle on his 6'2" frame. When the Korean War started, the 200-pounder enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, and was sent to Lakeland AFB in San Antonio.

When Hunsaker was a boy at home, sitting around the dinner table with six hungry brothers and sisters, "I'd reach across for something and my mom would say, 'Get that elephant foot back there!'" Hunsaker's huge hands caught the eye of his base sergeant, who pronounced them "the biggest hands I've ever seen on a man" and immediately fitted them with boxing gloves. Hunsaker won the base heavyweight title and the Texas Golden Gloves.

"It got so I'd rather fight than eat," he says. "And I like to eat better than anything."

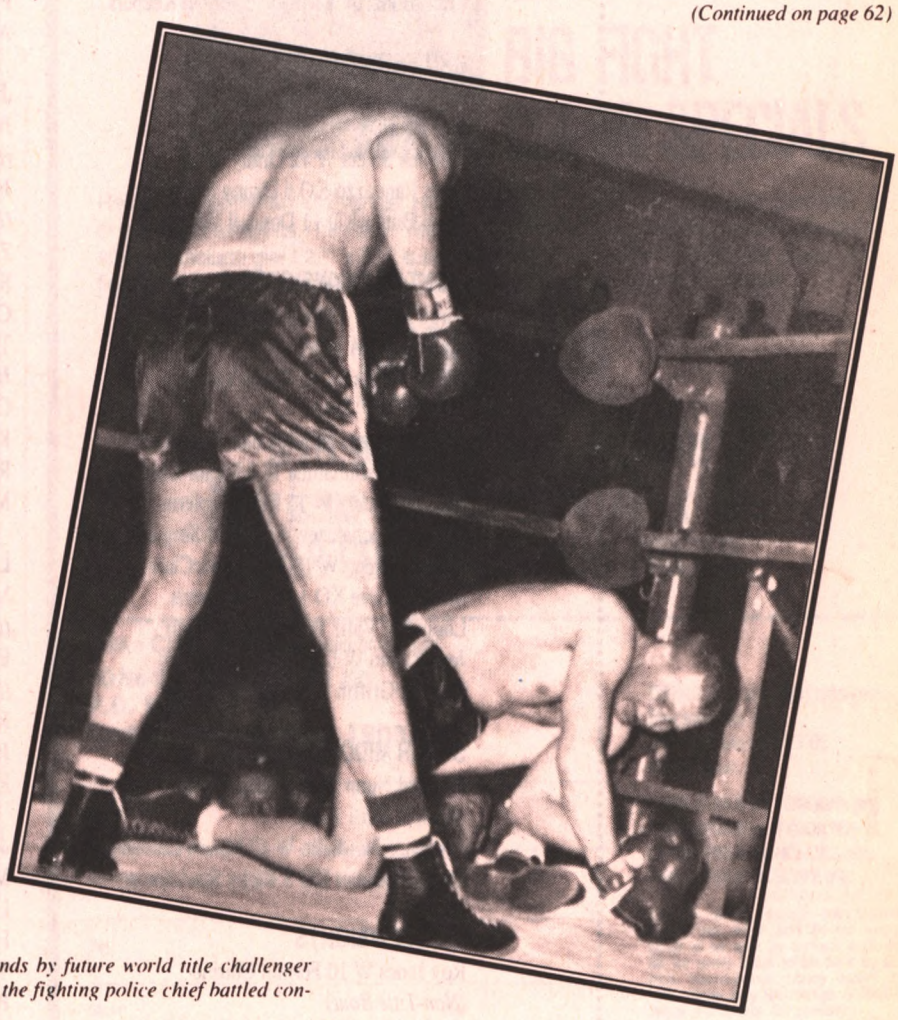
In Texas he had a few pro bouts for $10 a round, and after his military hitch ended he moved with his wife to her hometown of Oak Hill, West Virginia. Six miles from there, in Fayetteville, they were looking for a policeman. Hunsaker applied for and got the job. In perhaps the most rapid job advancement in law enforcement history, within a month he was chief of police. The incumbent chief had been caught by the Fayetteville mayor drinking beer on the job. "He fired him on the spot and pinned the badge on me," says Hunsaker.

A beer-drinking chief had no place in Fayetteville, but a prize fighting chief was considered a civic boon. The mayor even accompanied Hunsaker to out-of-town bouts. "They liked it because it gave the town publicity," Hunsaker explains.

Hunsaker acknowledges that "everybody dreams of becoming champion," but his heavyweight title aspirations faded away on the road, rubbed out by such rising '60s names as Ernie Terrell, Tom McNeeley, Sonny Banks, Todd Herring, and Alejandro Lavorante. A rugged, willing journeyman, Hunsaker would fight anyone, anywhere. Going into the other guy's backyard didn't faze him until he fought a big fellow named Thomas Dejarhett, whose address was the state prison at Moundsville, West Virginia. Dejarhett had moved there after he murdered his father.

When they brought the fighting police chief to the prison yard to box the fighting felon, there

(Continued on page 62)



In April 1960, Hunsaker was stopped in nine rounds by future world title challenger Tom McNeeley. In addition to Clay and McNeeley, the fighting police chief battled contenders such as Sonny Banks and Ernie Terrell.

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Michael Moorer W 10 Mike Evans
Mike Hunter No-Dec. 12 Buster Mathis Jr.
Phil Jackson W 10 Eddie Gonzalez
Herbie Hide KO 2 Jeff Lampkin
Bert Cooper KO 3 Mike Robinson
Henry Akinwande KO 4 Biagio Chianese
Alex Garcia W 10 Everton Davis
Alexandre Zolkin KO 2 Jerry Jones
Johnny Nelson W 12 Jimmy Thunder
Jeremy Williams KO 12 Garing Lane
Ken Lakusta KO 7 Danny Stonewalker
Larry Donald KO 3 Dwayne Hall
David Tua KO 1 Mike Acey
Montell Griffin KO 6 Ben Juda
Dannell Nicholson W 6 David Graves
Shannon Briggs W 6 Dan Wofford
Craig Bodzianowski KO 5 Jordan Keepers

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Kenny Keene W 10 James Pritchard
Jade Scott W 10 Marion Wilson
Chemek Saleta W 12 Grady Smith
Marc Randazzo KO 6 Danny Morgan
Brian Butler KO 11 Donnell Wingfield

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Virgil Hill W 12 Guy Waters
(Retains WBA Title)
Henry Maske W 12 David Vedder
(Retains IBF Title)
Fabrice Tiozzo KO 10 Glazz Campbell
Lumbala Tshimamba W 8 Victor Cordoba
Eddy Smulders W 12 Eric Nicoletta
Dariusz Michalczewski KO 10 Sergio Merani
Ernest Mateen W 10 Johnny McClain
Maurice Core KO 11 Simon Harris
Louis Del Valle W 10 Tim St. Clair
Jose Rivera W Disq. 6 Guy Stanford
Montell Griffin W 8 Terry Collier

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Michael Nunn W 12 Merqui Sosa
(Retains WBA Title)
Vincenzo Nardiello W 12 Mauro Galvano
Dan Schommer KO 3 Ricky Stackhouse

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Roy Jones W 10 Fermin Chirino
(Non-Title Bout)
Roberto Duran KO 8 Tony Menefee
Joe Lipsey W 10 Derrick Rolon
Steve Collins KO 9 Wayne Ellis
Agostino Cardamone W 12 Frederic Seillier
Said Skouma KO 5 Mustapha Dundar
Gino Lelong KO 3 Said Skouma
Dana Rosenblatt KO 1 Sean Fitzgerald
Lonnie Bradley KO 8 Tim Cooper

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Simon Brown KO 4 Terry Norris
(Wins WBC Title)
Winky Wright KO 5 Tony McCrimmon
Roger Turner W 8 Anthony Ivory
Ludovic Proto KO 4 Guy Vaste
Buck Smith KO 5 Tony Montana

WELTERWEIGHTS
Yori Boy Campas KO 4 Floyd Williams
Yori Boy Campas W 10 Anthony Ivory
Hector Camacho KO 1 Lee Fortune
Jung Oh Park KO 8 Hiroyuki Yoshino
Genaro Leon KO 9 Luis Francisco Perez
Freddie Ladd KO 10 Al Bell
Todd Foster KO 6 Larry LaCoursiere
Spike Cheney KO 7 Tom Alexander
Kevin Marston W 10 Pedro Saiz
Patrick Charpenteir KO 2 Antoine Fernandez
Alvin Hayes W 6 John Jeter

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Julio Cesar Chavez KO 5 Andy Holligan
(Retains WBC Title)
Juan Coggi KO 7 Eder Gonzalez
(Retains WBA Title)
Zack Padilla W 12 Ray Oliveira
Rafael Pineda KO 2 Ignacio Bernal
Christian Merle KO 2 Valery Kayumba
Tony Lopez KO 2 Amancio Castro
Jan Bergman KO 5 Jesus Rojas
George Scott W 10 Robert Rivera
Kelcie Banks W 10 Ray Collins
Ross Hale KO 4 Stephan Schramm
Marty Jakubowski W 10 Dwayne Swift

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Miguel Angel Gonzalez KO 11 Wilfrido Rocha
(Retains WBC Title)
Ed Pollard W Disq. 4 Fred Pendleton
(Non-Title Bout)
Joey Gamache KO 1 Kyu Han Park
Jorge Paez KO 5 Dominique Monaco
Ramon Marchena KO 1 Marco Antonio Ramirez

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Marcos Guevara KO 5 Duvines Rivas
Lyndon Walker W 10 Jose Vidal
Floyd Havard W 8 Harry Escott
Tony Pep W 12 Glenn Forde
Phillip Holiday W 10 Baby Sugar Rojas
Hector Monjardin W 10 Mark Smith

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Eloy Rojas W 12 Yung Kyun Park
(Wins WBA Title)
Kevin Kelley W 12 Goyo Vargas
(Wins WBC Title)
Tom Johnson KO 9 Stephane Haccoun
(Retains IBF Title)
Alejandro Gonzalez KO 2 Vicente Gonzalez
Luis Mendoza W 12 Jose Sanabria
Mustapha Hame W 8 Billy Hardy
David Santos KO 3 Lee Cargle
Fernando Rodriguez W 12 Tommy Barnes
Anatoli Alexandrov W 10 Roberto Granciosa
Derrick Gainer W 12 Julian Flores

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Jesse Benavides W 12 Jesus Sarabia
Eddie Croft D 10 Hector Acero-Sanchez
Francisco Soto W 10 Paul Banke
Samart Payakarun KO 5 Ignacio Jacome
Wayne McCullough KO 4 Jerome Coffee
Sergio Reyes KO 2 Jesus Chavez
Sergio Reyes W 6 James Ruiz

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Yasuei Yakushiji W 12 Jung Il Byun
(Wins WBC Title)
Orlando Canizales W 12 Juvenal Berrio
(Retains IBF Title)
Daorung Chuwatana KO 8 Tacy Macalos
Derrick Whiteboy W 12 Diepsuk Mabaduli
Johnny Armour KO 3 Karl Morling
Abraham Torres KO 10 David Marchan

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Julio Borboa KO 5 Rolando Pascua
(Retains IBF Title)
Marco Antonio Barrera KO 1 Alejandro Sanabria
Scotty Olson W 10 Michael Parris

FLYWEIGHTS

Yuri Arbachakov W 12 Nam Hoon Cha
(Retains WBC Title)
Mark Johnson W 12 Roberto Alvarez
Melchor Cob Castro KO 10 Jorge Roman
Danny Romero KO 1 Juan Cortez
Jake Matlala KO 7 Luigi Camputaro
Jesus Rojas KO 11 Jose Bonilla\

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Marcos Pacheco KO 6 Eric Griffin

STRAWWEIGHTS

Ricardo Lopez KO 11 Manny Melchor
(Retains WBC Title)
Ratanapol Sor Voraphin KO 2 Felix Naranjo
(Retains IBF Title)
Chana Porpaoin KO 4 Rafael Torres
(Retains WBA Title)

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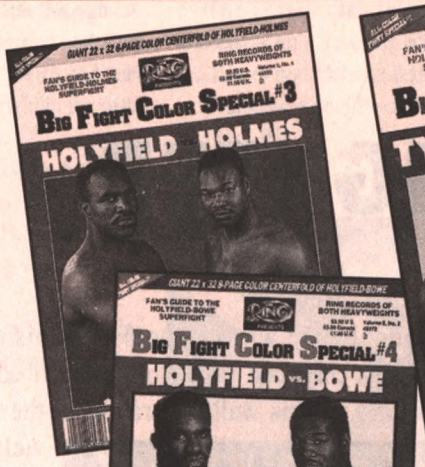

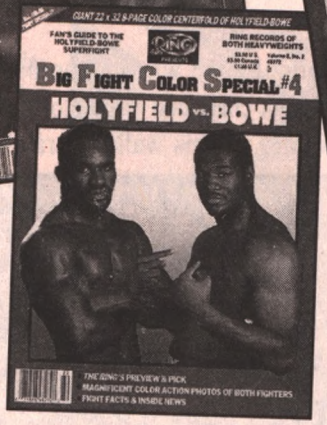

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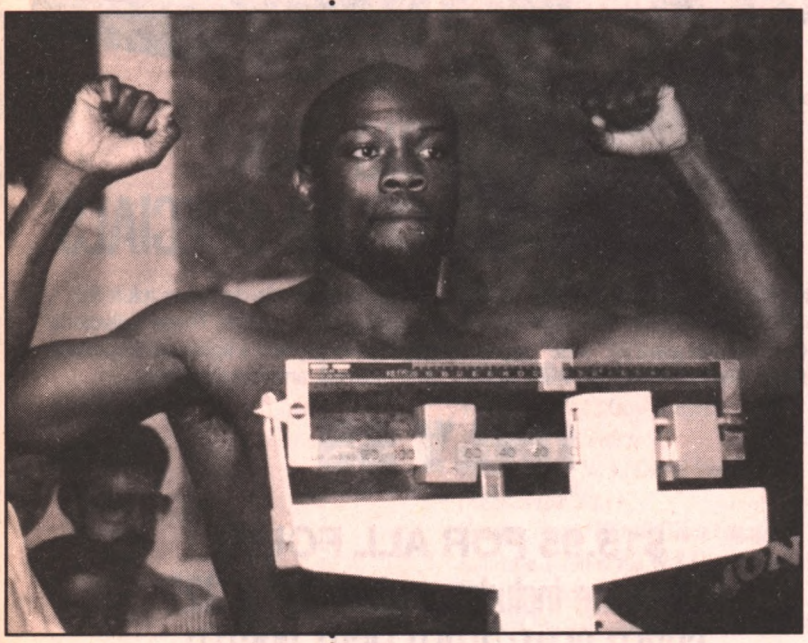
FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

Judging by the way he approached his defense against Simon Brown, WBC super welterweight champion Terry Norris subscribed to the popular belief that the challenger was a shot fighter. Norris walked straight to the hard-punching Brown, showing the former welterweight champion the respect normally accorded a sparring partner. But this wasn't Pa Lawlor or Joe Gatti, and when Brown punched back, Norris wiggled and wobbled.



Both fighters landed with maximum power. Only one of them, however, possessed a chin sturdy enough to give *and* take. Before four rounds were completed, Brown was a champion again, the winner of the Upset of the Year.

When Brown was welterweight champion, he developed a reputation as a warrior with a heart that never failed him. After he lost the title to Buddy McGirt, and then faded because of injuries and health problems, he was summarily dismissed.

Our mistake. And Terry's, too.

••••

Simon Brown

Wilfredo Vasquez W 12 Hiroaki Yokota

Tokyo, Japan: Hard-punching Puerto Rican Vasquez retained the WBA junior featherweight title for the fifth time, stalking puzzling lefty Yokota, dropping him in the fifth, and pounding out a unanimous decision at Korakuen Hall.

Elias Quintana (USA) and Pinit Prayadsab (Thailand) scored 116-112, and Hector Hernandez (Mexico) 115-113. The referee was Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa).

The 33-year-old Vasquez, 122, pursued his mobile foe throughout. Yokota, 121, Japan, used hit-and-run tactics to take the second and third rounds. But Vasquez, 38-6-3 (30), gained control in the fourth and sent Yokota, 24-4-1 (14), sprawling with a well-timed counter right in the fifth. The challenger barely beat the count.

Vasquez was penalized for hitting low in the ninth. Yokota, however, was unable to capitalize; he was outfought in that round, and failed to throw enough punches in the 10th, 11th, and 12th. Though clearly fatigued, Vasquez continued to chase the Japanese, scoring with one shot at a time.

The 32-year-old Yokota, who works as an executive in a major wig-making company, indicated he will now devote all his energy to his business.

Promoter: Ohkawa Promotions
(11-18-93)
Joe Koizumi

Jose Luis Bueno W 12 Sung Kil Moon

Pohang, South Korea: The 46-month reign of "Korean Hands Of Stone" Moon ended in his 10th defense, as Mexico's Bueno took the WBC super flyweight title via split decision at Pohang Gymnasium.

Marty Denkin and Lou Filippo scored for Bueno, 117-112 and 118-110, respectively. Chuck Giampa saw Moon the winner by 115-114. All three judges, as well as referee Rudy Ortega, are from the USA.

Moon, 115, who has been fading in recent outings, dropped the lightly regarded Bueno, 115, with a solid left hook in round three, but the third-ranked Mexican subsequently utilized clever movement and superior hand speed. As the rounds mounted, the ever-charging Moon's left cheekbone swelled hideously. Sensing he was being tamed by his opponent's counterpunches, the 30-year-old champion rallied with desperation from the ninth round until the final bell. Bueno's counters, however, remained effective and continued to catch the attention of the judges.

Bueno is 24-3-1 (17). Moon dropped to 20-2 (15).

Promoter: Moris Promotions
(11-13-93)
Joe Koizumi

Katsuya Onizuka W 12 Khaoyai Mahasarakam

Tokyo, Japan: In April 1992, Japan's "Spanky" Onizuka followed the legendary Khaosai Galaxy as WBA junior bantamweight champion by winning a controversial decision over Thailand's Mahasarakam (then Thanomsak Sithbaobay). In this, his fourth defense, he again scored a unanimous but disputed decision, outpointing his rival over 12 hard-fought rounds at Ariake Coliseum.

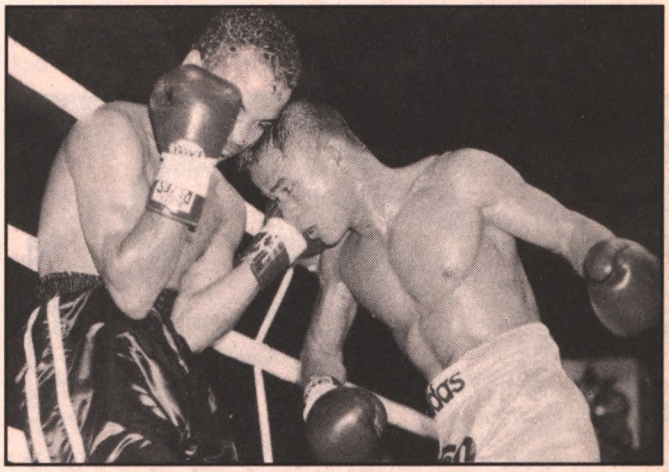
Onizuka, 115, was aggressive throughout but absorbed much punishment from the sharp-punching 28-year-old Mahasarakam, 115. Carol Polis (USA) scored 116-111, and Rogelio Perez (Panama) and Dong Ok Lee (South Korea) 115-113.

The 23-year-old Onizuka, 23-0 (17), started quickly, but the furious pace favored the challenger, who countered with right hands. Always busy, Onizuka initiated several exchanges from the fifth through the eighth. He landed more blows, but Mahasarakam, 44-4 (25), scored with the cleaner shots.

In the seventh, Onizuka began streaming blood from a cut over his left eyebrow. The cool and precise Mahasarakam seemed to sweep the last four rounds. He was penalized, however, for punching after the bell ending the ninth.

The judges clearly preferred Onizuka's volume punching to Mahasarakam's superior accuracy. Whether the champion deserved the decision or not, Mahasarakam certainly deserves a third try at the title.

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions
(11-5-93)
Joe Koizumi



Porpaoin poured it on against Torres

Chana Porpaoin KO 4 Rafael Torres

Phichit Province, Thailand: Unbeaten speedster Porpaoin retained the WBA minimumweight title for the third time, rising from the canvas to sink featherfisted southpaw Torres for the count at the 1:42 mark of the fourth.

In the first round, Torres, 18-2-1 (0), Dominican Republic, sent the champion to the canvas with a straight left. Porpaoin, 30-0 (13), rebounded by landing several rights in the second. Torres carefully circled the ring in the third, but in the fourth Porpaoin got inside. After pounding Torres' midsection, he connected with a huge right to the face. Torres collapsed and took the full count of referee Ken Morita (Japan).

Porpaoin's next defense will be a rematch vs. top-rated contender Carlos Murillo (Panama), whom he outpointed earlier this year.

Promoter: Niwat Laosuwanwat
(11-28-93)
Joe Koizumi

Orlando Canizales W 12 Juvenal Berrio

Hammanskraal, South Africa: IBF bantamweight champion Canizales scored a wholly professional, if sometimes impassive, unanimous decision over Colombia's relatively unknown Berrio before a crowd of about 4,000 in a tent on the carpark of the Carousel Casino. It was Canizales' 13th defense.

The 28-year-old Canizales, 118, Laredo, Texas, paced himself from the start and showed his class. Mandatory contender Berrio, 118, lacked

the skill and ring craft to trouble the champion. The fighters showed too much respect for each other at the start, and little happened until midway through the second, when referee Barry Yates (USA) noticed the challenger's right glove had split down the side. That brought a six-minute delay. Upon the resumption of action, Berrio landed the fight's first good punch, a straight right to the head.

Berrio, 28-4, was willing to the end and finished by going toe to toe in the 12th. But from start to finish, Canizales, 35-1-1 (26) with 1 no-contest, controlled the action with his jab and accurate combination punching. It appears, however, that the champion lacks the knockout power of his earlier defenses.

Berrio was penalized for punching after the bell in the eighth and butting in the 12th. Francisco Hernandez (Colombia) and Alfred Buqwana (South Africa) both scored 116-112, and William Ray Jr. 116-110.

Promoter: Golden Gloves Promotions (Rodney Berman)

(11-20-93)

Ron Jackson

Johnson was in tune against Haccoun

Tom Johnson KO 9 Stephane Haccoun

Marseille, France: Two weeks after his manager, Keith Grissom, was shot to death in Detroit during a dispute over a car wreck, IBF featherweight champion Johnson retained the crown by outpointing European titlist Haccoun at the Sports Palace. It was "Boom Boom's" second defense.

The ease with which Johnson, 126, Detroit, gained victory belied the turmoil that had engulfed his camp. Virtually every round was scored for the champion, and Haccoun, 126, France, was a thoroughly broken fi when referee Pete Podgorski (USA) intervened at the 1:16 mark o ninth round.

Johnson, 34-2-1 (21), opened by outboxing his opponent w piercing jab and following with hard combinations. From the start it clear the plodding Haccoun, 27-2-1 (18), would be overwhelmed b task, but he nonetheless came forward throughout.

Johnson picked Haccoun apart from long range and added a m body attack when the situation arose. By the ninth a stoppage imminent, and when Johnson backed the challenger to the ro Podgorski stepped in. As the referee made his move, Haccou cornerman, former super middleweight champion Chris Tiozzo, beginning to climb into the ring to surrender.

At the time of the stoppage, Bennie Conner (USA) and Alfred A (France) had scored a shutout, while Al DeVito (USA) had given Hacc one round.

The murder of Grissom was an eerie coincidence; at the star Johnson's career, Johnny Ace, his first manager, was murdered in a d related incident in Detroit.

(11-30-93)

Brian Doogan

Julio Borboa KO 5 Rolando Pascua

Hermosillo, Mexico: People are learning more and more about E junior bantamweight champion "Navajo" Borboa every time he enters t ring. And the more they learn, the more impressive he gets.

All but unknown one year ago, Borboa provided the latest revelat as the defended the title for the third time, laughing off the threat former WBC light flyweight king Pascua.

The first fighter to defeat Chiquita Gonzalez, the Philippines' Pascu 34-9 (14), shocked Borboa, 21-4 (18), by flooring him with a heavy ri hook in the opening round. The punch would have stopped many foes, b Borboa simply smiled, quickly picked himself up, and went back to work.

After that scare, Borboa steadily wore down the southpaw w superior boxing skills. Pascua continued to punch, but Borboa mixed h attack, landing jabs and powerpunches to both the head and body.

By the fifth round Pascua's face was swollen and blood was trickl from a cut on his right eyelid and his mouth. A five-punch series, capp by a left hook, drove him to the canvas. The brave Filipino rose, a referee Jose Medina (Mexico) allowed the bout to continue. Four righ hands later, Medina stepped in at the 2:58 mark.

The judges were Robert Byrd (USA), William James (USA), an Pedro Degante (Mexico).

Promoter: Cedric Kushner

(11-26-93)

Bruce Williams

Miguel Angel Gonzalez KO 11 Wilfrido Rocha

Mexico City, Mexico: WBC lightweight champion Gonzalez, 135, ha been in a mini-slump, with his last four victories (three in defense of th title), having come on points. Colombia's Rocha, 134¾, didn't figure to b an easy mark; in battling Gonzalez for the vacant title in 1992, he scored knockdown before succumbing in a thrilling brawl.

This time, however, Gonzalez, who dedicated the fight to his la manager, Pancho Rosales, dominated before 5,000 cheering supporters a the Arena Coliseo. He dropped the walk-in Rocha with a left-right in th first and a sweeping hook in the eighth. A second-round flurry, which le

Rocha hanging on the ropes, was ruled a slip by referee Simon DeLima (Venezuela).

The ringside doctor recommended the fight be stopped in the ninth, with Rocha, 24-3 (22), banged up and bleeding from the lower lip. DeLima finally intervened at the 12-second mark of the 11th.

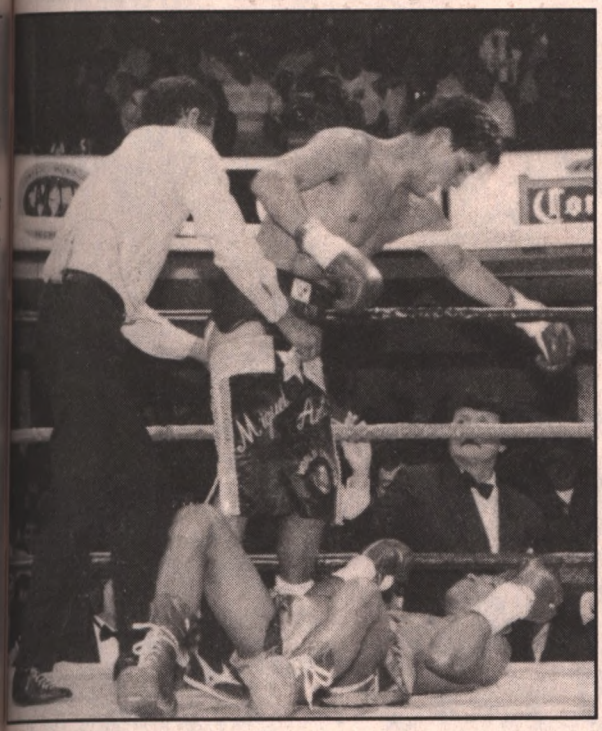
"I think I gave the capital's fight fans the fight they wanted to see," said Gonzalez, 30-0 (24). "I returned to being a boxer."

"This time he was more of a boxer," echoed Rocha. "He beat me good."

Gonzalez, 23, injured his right hand in the sixth round, but X-rays revealed no breaks. His next bout will likely come in March. He would like to defend against WBC super featherweight champion Azumah Nelson, but might have to settle for mandatory challenger Leavander Johnson.

(11-27-93)

Bruce Williams



Gonzalez dominated Rocha this time

Yuri Arbachakov W 12 Nam Hoon Cha

Kyoto, Japan: Making his fourth defense of the WBC flyweight title, Japan-based Russian Arbachakov, 111¾, connected with accurate shots to score a tougher-than-expected unanimous decision over game Korean Cha, 112, at the Kyoto Municipal Gymnasium.

The 23-year-old Cha was a challenger with strong credentials; he had retained the OPBF 108-pound crown six times, all by kayo. He proved his toughness against the 27-year-old powerpunching champion, absorbing Arbachakov's vaunted right and answering with combinations.

The flys probed for two rounds before Arbachakov, 17-0 (13), took command in the third. He stunned the challenger with a flurry in the fifth, but Cha rebounded to come forward from the sixth through the ninth. The momentum again turned in the 10th, with Arbachakov putting together his punches. In the 11th, Cha, 22-2-1 (13), slipped as he threw a right, but it was ruled a knockdown. Conversely, in the 12th, Cha dropped the champion with a right, but after he punched while Arbachakov was down, he was warned for the foul, and no count was issued. Neither incident affected the outcome. Harold Lawrence (Curacao) scored 116-112, Jo Jo Guera (Mexico) 118-111, and Jesus Arias (Mexico) 117-113.

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions

(12-13-93)

Joe Koizumi

Eloy Rojas W 12 Yung Kyun Park

Kwangmyong, South Korea: Hard-punching Venezuelan Rojas, 125¾, attacked furiously at the start and weathered his opponent's desperate comeback to wrest the WBA featherweight title from Korea's Park, 125¼, by split decision at Kwangmyong Gymnasium. It was Park's ninth defense; he had reigned since March 1990.

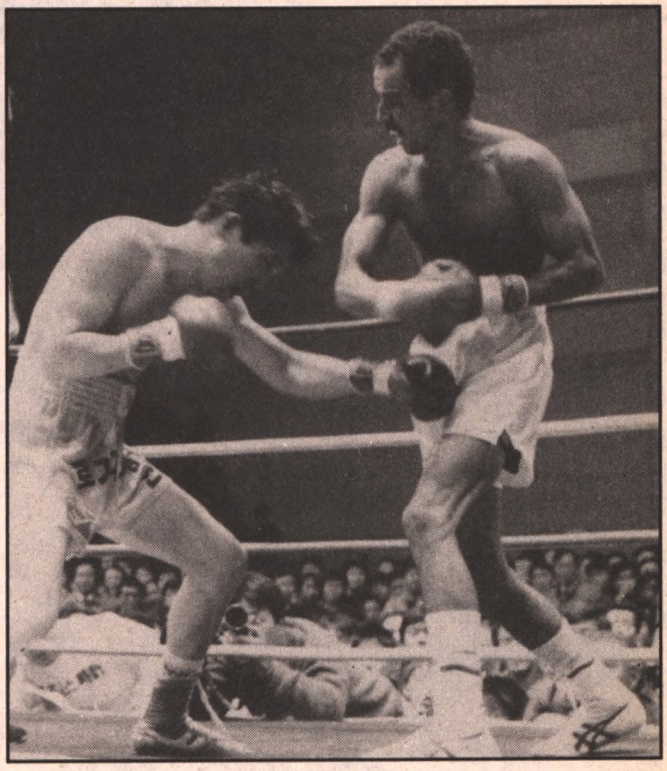
The 26-year-old Rojas, who failed in a 1991 bid to dethrone Park, pounded his opponent from the opening bell and built a considerable early lead. He was especially effective in round two, when he landed several uppercuts and forced the champion to clinch. The ever-swarming Park, 26, began fighting back in the fifth, and it was a furious and foul-filled battle the rest of the way. Park, 26-2-1 (15), lost a point for intentional butting in the sixth, and Rojas, 27-1-1 (23), was penalized for repeated holding in the seventh and ninth. Both fighters were guilty of frequent rabbit punches, and in round 10 they wrestled each other to the canvas.

In the ninth and 11th rounds Rojas staggered Park with right crosses and uppercuts. His late rally made him a champion. Lou Tabat (USA) and Harmodio Cedeno (Panama) scored for Rojas by 113-112 and 115-111, and Chalerm Prayadsab (Thailand) had Park in front by 114-111. The referee was Larry Rozadilla (USA).

Promoter: Hyundai Promotions

(12-4-93)

Joe Koizumi ■



Rojas dethroned the long-reigning Park

Camera Clicks

Isn't this how Maxwell Smart got his start? WBC President Jose Sulaiman and super lightweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez agree that long distance is the next-best thing.

One of 1993's best fights saw Zack Padilla score a 12-round decision over Ray Oliveira in Ledyard, Connecticut. The junior welters threw a combined 3,020 punches!

Photo by Ray Bailey

In December, matchmaker Teddy Brenner was honored at The Paramount by the likes of fine artist—and boxing fanatic—LeRoy Neiman.

Michael Nunn celebrates making weight before his defense in Puebla, Mexico, vs. Merqui Sosa. Nunn, who won on points, had to drop seven pounds inside of a day.

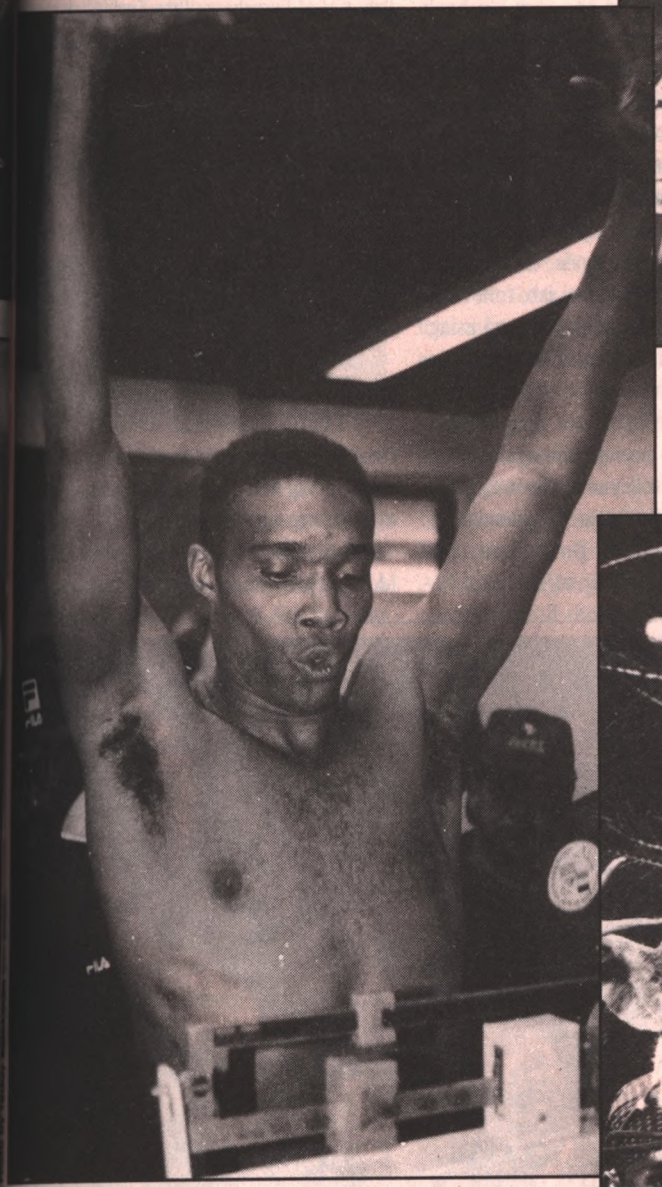


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

As witnessed in Puebla, Mexico, Don King hasn't lost his eye for world champions and beautiful round card girls.

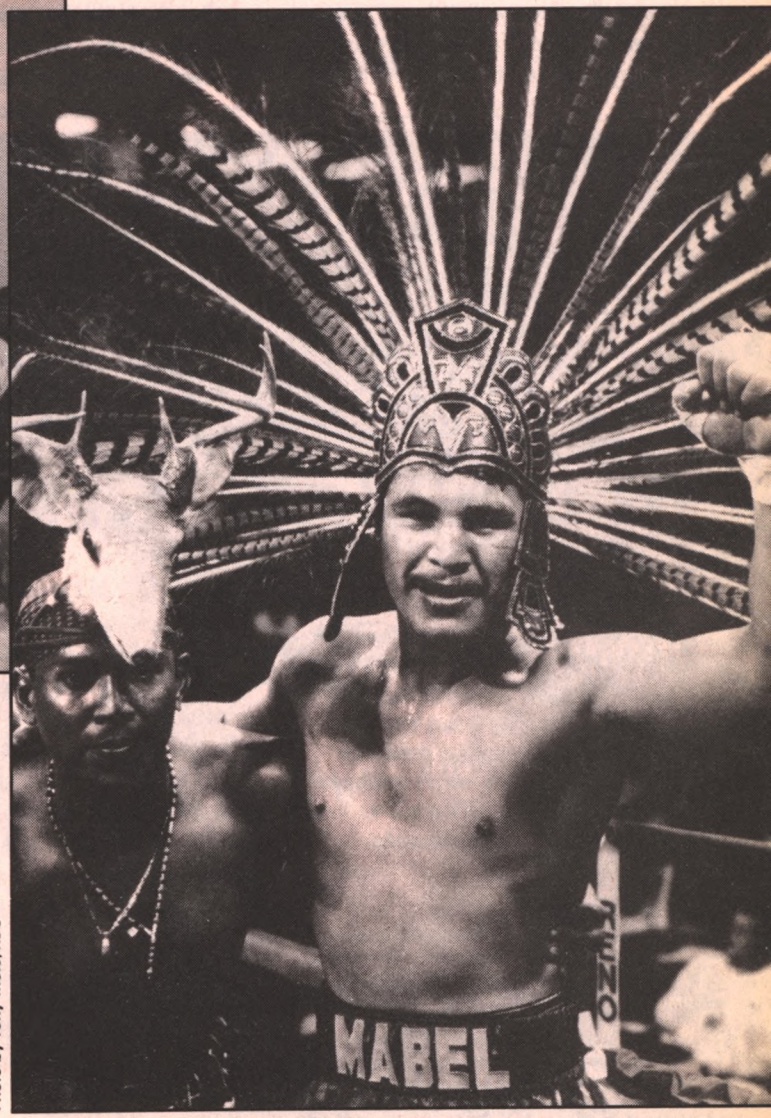


Photo by Tony Triolo/HBO

The best outfit in boxing belongs to welterweight contender Yori Boy Campas. Nice lid on his buddy, too.

Kelley

(Continued from page 37)

see if they call me.' If I can make a little dent and do what Ali did for the heavyweights, okay. I guarantee you—give me the exposure and I'll be as big as Holyfield, Morrison, and Bowe."

In the days leading up to the Vargas fight, Kelley wasn't concerned with such ramifications. He had turned introspective and was struggling with his thoughts. It wasn't that he doubted how he'd perform in his first title fight; he was sure that nothing could ever be more daunting than his February 1992 showdown with Troy Dorsey.

"The pressure was getting to me," he said. "The week of the fight I was the only fighter in Reno, and the press ganged up on me. I was doing four, five interviews a day. I felt so obligated to everyone. I couldn't get the fight off my mind. I knew Vargas was tough ... the odds were even ... I said to myself, 'Oh, my goodness, I gotta fight the hardest guy to win the title.' And Junior had just won the bantamweight title, so I said, 'Man, I *gotta* do it now.' I was the last of the Madison Square Garden fighters to get a title shot."

Kelley called Val—and let her do the talking. She told him what he needed to hear, that he should forget about everything else, and everyone else, too. Even if he lost, he'd still come home to a family that loved him.

"If I hadn't talked to her I'd have been a bundle of nerves," Kelley said. "Right away I felt easier, more relaxed. Before the fight I was even in HBO's production truck, talking on the headsets to Jim Lampley and George Foreman."

Maybe they found an opening to talk back, maybe not. But they had plenty to say during the fight. For the first six rounds, Kelley was flawless, pumping his southpaw jab, following with both straight and looping lefts, and using subtle movement to elude Vargas' blows. It was Whitaker-Chavez all over again.

As strong as any fighter in the division, Vargas rallied in the seventh and again in the ninth, when he drove Kelley to the floor. On both occasions the challenger seemed vulnerable, if not on the verge of defeat. But he remained poised and almost immediately reestablished his boxing skills.

"The last time he had boxed like that [illegible] against Pipps [in July 1991]," said Moretti. [illegible] had been a while, and we were wonder[ing] whether he could still do it."

In the 12th, Vargas, his right eye clos[ed], wanted to brawl. Kelley refused to retreat, [and] they traded fiercely until the final bell. It was a perfect ending to a classic fight. Even the judg[es] got it right.

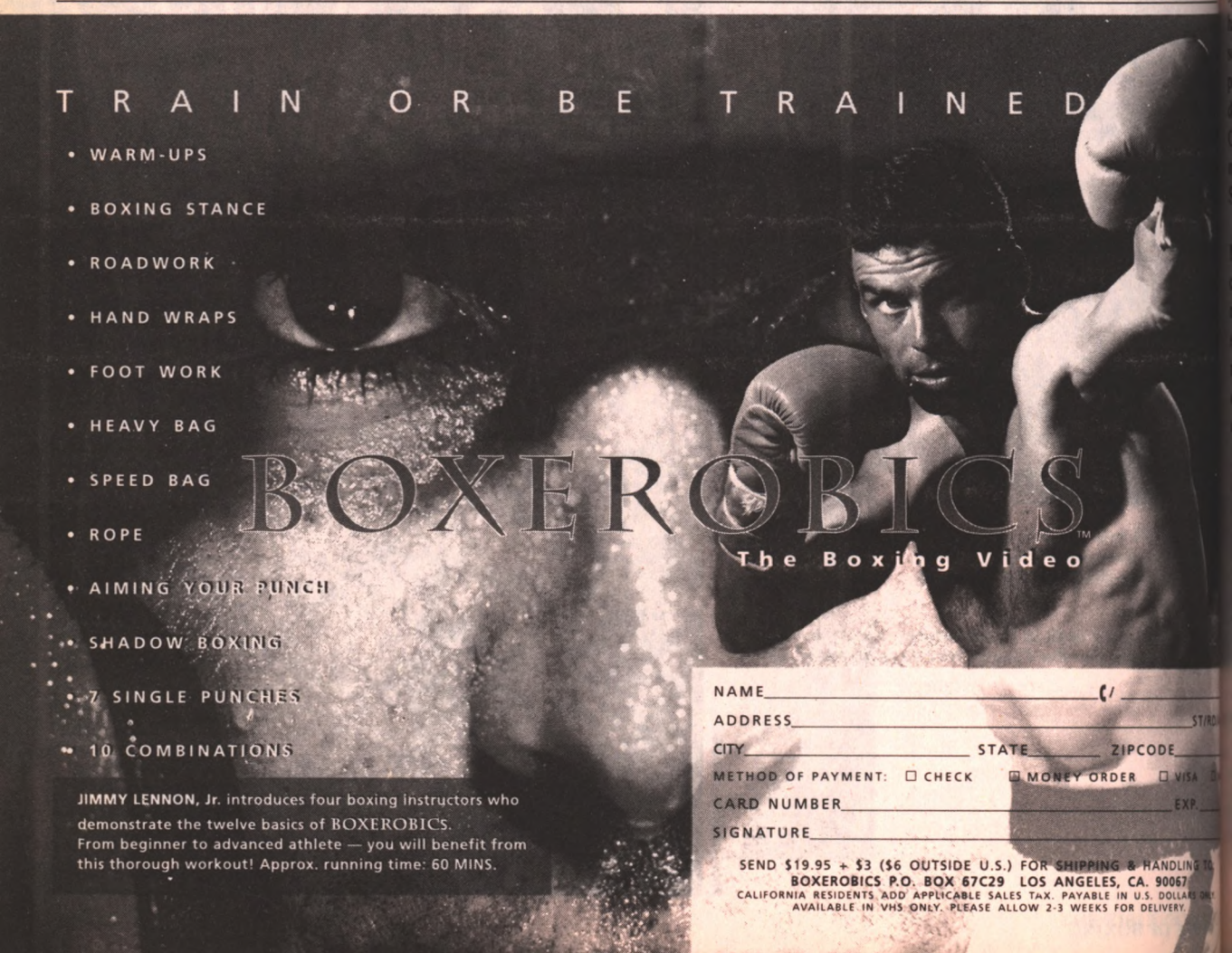
***

What if Kelley-Vargas had been a stinke[r]. What if Kelley had won in the manner of, say, Michael Moorer?

"You wouldn't have seen any more featherweights or bantamweights on HBO," said network vice president Lou DiBella. "There was a lot riding on it.

"For Kelley personally—forget the little-guy concept—he deserves more big fights on HBO. He's a terrific fighter, an action fighter. In the ring he's not likely to be boring, and in conversation he's a ball of personality. All he has to do is keep winning."

Oh, by the way, DiBella added that Patterson-McKinney had been made for the spring. Maybe



they should give Kelley part of their purses.

"HBO has the power to make us stars," Kelley said. "I remember when Meldrick Taylor and Pernell Whitaker were champions fighting on HBO. I remember thinking, *If these guys only knew the power they have with those belts ... The power they have to influence people.* It's not about being champion. It's about what you do with the title."

The bagel is no longer as much as an afterthought. Someone's mentioned that Kelley is a perfect candidate for a profile in *People*. His mind is racing, and his mouth is trying to keep pace ... ■

Carbajal

(Continued from page 42)

Approach the backyard that served as Carbajal's training ground and two guard dogs spring to life. Michael's voice grows remarkably deep as he shouts clearance. Most of the homemade equipment has been moved inside a splintered training shed. The ring is tiny and must have led to Carbajal's infighting style. It is surrounded by specialty bags, where his jab-and-parry stance was perfected. On facing walls are dozens of old fight photos, including several of Carbajal's idol, Roberto Duran, hence the nickname "Manitas De Piedra" ("Little Hands Of Stone").

Much in the barrio has deteriorated since little Michael started chasing his dream. But as their classic gym ages like a shrine, the Carbajals are remodeling an abandoned church across the street. Carbajal began working out there a few months ago. Outside, on the old stairway, some of the block's non-commissioned finest hold court. It resembles a rescue mission. Maybe it is.

Carbajal's training soundtrack is mostly Motown oldies, but the smell of fresh paint and the sight of youngsters at a heavybag show an investment in the future. Maybe the Carbajals will rebuild the whole neighborhood. That seems to be the community attitude.

Michael is hailed with affection at every sidewalk huddle. A block from his residence sits another weathered tribute, a corner store fittingly called the American Dream Market. Discipline and sacrifice have made it true for Carbajal, but others have not been as enterprising or successful. That doesn't mean the gap can't be bridged with dignity: Two men rise from a group on the porch and stagger over. They're sharing a bottle. One is a visitor who stands in awe, patting Michael's back with a heavy hand. "It's really you, it's really you," he repeats and starts rambling about his racial history. Carbajal listens, then says sincerely, "You've got a strong heritage, so it's important to take good care of yourself." Ethnic pride glows through the man's bloodshot eyes and he grabs Carbajal tightly. "We love you, Michael. You're one of us, brother," he says. Their skin does not seem different.

***

Carbajal's appeal now transcends the U.S. and Mexico. East Asian fans crave an appearance against one of their heroes, but the financial incentives haven't made either side particularly anxious to travel. In South America, a teleconference during which viewers called in and spoke with Carbajal was broadcast to several countries and drew an unprecedented response.

During the recent WBC convention in Las Vegas, Carbajal was one of the biggest stars among past and present champions in attendance. One morning he taped a TV show with Sugar Ray Leonard, Larry Holmes, and Jose Sulaiman. Always politically correct, Leonard complimented the WBC at every turn, and Holmes kissed up while lobbying for a fight with Lennox Lewis. When Carbajal's turn came, he said, "I don't believe one organization is necessarily better or worse than the others. What matters and what we should all look at is where the everyday fighters end up and how they can benefit the most." Backstage, Danny chuckled and nodded to himself, saying, "No matter what happens, I hope he always says what he thinks."

Is the soft-spoken Carbajal growing more confident as his stock rises? "I've always been a little cocky," he said. "I was just more quiet because not so many people wanted to talk to me."

Now they're talking to him and about him, too. As previous Fighters of the Year, Leonard and Holmes are uniquely qualified to offer their endorsements. Said Leonard, "Michael is the epitome of a champ. He typifies all great fighters by exuding confidence and by his championship heart. Besides that, he's real tough."

Added Holmes, "Carbajal is a great fighter with the heart of a lion. A lot of young fighters should adapt to his style. When he gets hit he fights back harder. He reminds me of myself and the fighters of old. Maybe if my comeback is lucky, I'll get some kind of title fight on one of his undercards."

Giving back to the sport, Carbajal has helped

(Continued on page 56)

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Carbajal

(Continued from page 55)

revitalize Arizona boxing. He has made countless appearances at fight cards and functions. Of course, he downplays his commitment: "I just love to watch fights and enjoy being around the scene."

As a result, kids in every corner of the state get inspiration. "Most important," Carbajal says, "for the younger ones I just tell them to set goals and keep working. A time will come when no one can stop you from doing what you want."

As a young father, most of Carbajal's extra attention is focused on his family. "Being a father keeps you strong," he says. "Just being around my kids is more fun than anything. Watching them grow up so fast ... " But no family escapes the pain of losing a loved one. Carbajal's father succumbed to a heart attack in October. Manuel Carbajal was an Arizona Golden Gloves winner in the '40s, and he introduced all nine of his children to boxing. Back problems made him pass the training torch to Danny. Their father supported them all the way, but never forced his opinion or influence. His patience was a gift he left with his sons.

"I always knew my dad was in my corner and I still do," says Michael. "Some people didn't think I'd go through with the Sosa fight so near to his death, but I swear I could feel him with me while I trained. I knew he'd want me to go on. My father always told me to do things for myself, and I really wanted or needed to fight for him. I knew his spirit would be there like always." It remains a tearful subject.

Ask Carbajal how he'd like to be remembered professionally and the response is as short and sweet as his knockout hook: "I want to be thought of as a very exciting fighter who put up 100 percent. And, of course, very fun to watch."

But there are a lot of fights to be fought. Carbajal will start '94 with a Gonzalez rematch—and that $1-million purse. Whatever the future holds, he has already left a sizable mark. Manuel Carbajal would be proud. His son has proved you can be laid back and still generate excitement. You can provide thrills without being outrageous.

You can weigh 108 pounds and be a giant. ■

***Phil Woolever, who is based in Arizona, is a longtime correspondent of* THE RING.**

Griffin

(Continued from page 16)

Griffin doesn't look like a heavyweight to his trainer, the legendary Eddie Futch, who claimed victories over Ali while working the corners of Ken Norton and Joe Frazier.

"He doesn't have an orthodox style," he said. "He looks like a middleweight. His body reminds me of Frazier—I used to say that he had the worst build for a heavyweight I had ever seen. Montell uses speed and shiftiness. He's got a good eye. He sees the punches coming real well and he's got quick hands. He's got good power, but we'll get him to use more. We'll teach him timing and judgment of distance."

It's doubtful, however, that Futch will ever override the influence of Ali. Unfortunately, Griffin feels he cannot share his development with his mentor.

"I saw him one time and he said he knew who I was, but I don't know if he really did or not," he said. "I just gave him a hug and walked away. It was sad to see him that way. I was used to seeing him with a big mouth, talking, having fun, and enjoying himself. I couldn't believe that was him."

Griffin not only fights like Ali; he has also exhibited an Ali-like independence.

"My father died when I was 12, and I decided to forget about boxing," he recalled. "I just had a normal life. But when I was 20, I wasn't doing anything, so I made up my mind that I had to get back in shape. [Griffin had been employed by the United Parcel Service.] I hated working, but I also hated sitting around with nothing to do. The one thing that I knew was boxing."

Griffin packed his bags and moved to Los Angeles.

"I was thinking, *Was I as good as everyone said I was?* I just altogether packed up and moved. I was real close with all my friends, hanging out every night, and I knew I had to start all over."

Nine years after his "retirement," Griffin fought both inside and outside the ring for the opportunity to compete in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. At the Trials he beat Terry McGroom en route to the finals, where he was outpointed by Jeremy Williams. When the Amateur Boxing Federation chose McGroom as the most noteworthy opponent to face Williams at the Box-offs, Griffin went to court. He won the right to face McGroom in a special bout and again defeated him. Then he topped Willia twice in three days to win a spot on the team.

"People just think I popped up on the sce all of a sudden," he said. "I knew how good was. I had trained only one year for th Olympics. I was still rusty and learning things. I had been able to fight for two or three years would have been unstoppable."

In Barcelona, Griffin lost a decision to worl champion and eventual gold medal winne Torsten May of Germany. The bout was amon the most controversial of the Games. In the thir round May suffered a bad cut over his right eye The ringside doctor made only one brief examination and allowed the bout to continue despite profuse bleeding. Moreover, Griffin was penalized *three* points for ducking his head. He lost 6-4 on the computerized punch-count scoring system. A victory would have meant at least a bronze medal.

"The Olympics told me not to depend on nothing," said Griffin. "It was a great experience to make the Olympic team. We just had our hopes up too high. I knew that no one could beat me, I knew I was coming home with a gold medal. I was just so hurt. For me to do what I did in one year, all that hard work, it seemed like it went down the drain. I was let down so hard."

Griffin dealt with his loss by taking time off.

"I knew I was going to turn pro," he explained, "but after the Olympics I just wasn't ready. I took off longer than everybody else. I had my first fight in February. Those guys on the Olympic team were fighting in October and November. I came back home, saw all my friends, hung out. If I had gone right at it, it would have been half-hearted. I had to wait until I got my desire back up. I started to miss boxing, and then I got ready to sign a contract and go back into the gym."

Offers poured in and a cautious Griffin investigated all of them. He traveled to different camps, visiting Lennox Lewis and Frank Maloney, Jackie Kallen, and the Duvas.

"I didn't want to sign with a big-time manager," he said. "I didn't want to be in line or in a stable. I wanted to be the main man."

His search led to manager John Caluwaert of Elmhurst, Illinois, and Futch.

"His reputation preceded him," said Caluwaert. "In the face of insurmountable competition, he showed mental talent. We knew we had a world champion in the making. Montell is a very serious, mature young man, and I was very impressed by him."

Griffin signed with Caluwaert in January

(Continued on page 58)

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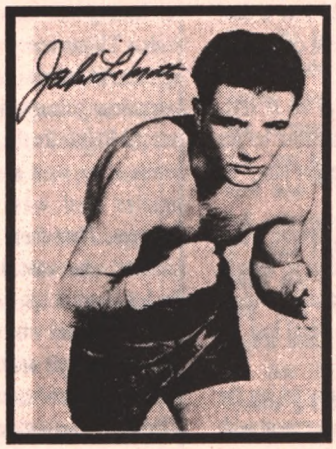

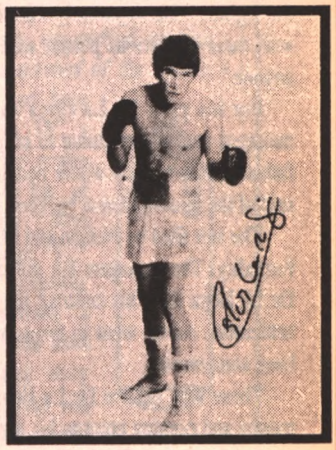

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Griffin

(Continued from page 56)

1993. Then fighter and manager began to analyze different trainers, systematically eliminating such names as Slim Robinson and George Benton.

"I was then introduced to Eddie and Thel Torrance [Futch's assistant]," recalled Caluwaert. "I reviewed their philosophies and ideals, and Eddie and I seemed to click very well. Eddie said there was no reason why Montell shouldn't go all the way."

"I would like to be world champ in the next year or two," declared Griffin. "I want to gell all this over by the time I'm 30. Now that will be something for the scrapbook." ■

Arlene Schulman is a freelance writer based in New York City.

De La Hoya

(Continued from page 23)

Ray Garza and Jerry Salas. De La Hoya has identified Garza as his business agent. Salas is a cousin of De La Hoya's father, Joel. It is believed that if De La Hoya did indeed accept a cash payment, it came from someone else.

"He's a confused young kid," Arum said of the fighter. "He apparently entered into a deal with these mysterious people without consulting anyone."

For his part, De La Hoya says he is self-managed and will continue to be advised by his father. "I don't know where people get that," he said of the rumors of new backers.

The suit filed by Nelson and Mittleman was a formality. The managers are prepared to release De La Hoya from his contract for a seven-figure settlement. As we went to press, no deal had yet been announced.

Those who believe De La Hoya is taking the money and running point to his involvement with powerful manager Shelly Finkel, who sponsored the fighter during his amateur days. Finkel paid for Cecelia De La Hoya's funeral and claims he spent a total of $100,000 on the recruitment of the hottest amateur prospect in the world. After De La Hoya won a gold medal, it was a given that he'd sign with Finkel and promoter Dan Duva. ("We had," said Finkel, "an oral contract.") After he accepted $1-million from Nelson and Mittleman, his loyalty was questioned. But business is business, and Finkel rejected the opportunity to match the unprecedented offer. He is, however, suing De La Hoya for money advanced and not paid back.

At first, Team De La Hoya seemed in harmony, perhaps because Mittleman and Nelson's deal included a $500,000 home in Montebello, California, a $60,000 Acura NSX sports car, a $30,000 van for training purposes, and cash bonuses for Joel De La Hoya and Robert Alcazar, De La Hoya's trainer. (Joel De La Hoya was contracted to receive 11 percent of the managerial share of his son's purses.) The problems may have started after De La Hoya's pro debut, a first-round kayo of Lamar Williams at the Great Western Forum in November 1992. Nelson and Mittleman promised a purse of $200,000, but initially paid $50,000 and a percentage of the gate, which didn't amount to what had been anticipated.

"That wasn't Oscar's fault," said Nelson. "We took $60,000 out of our pockets to make good."

As of September 1, 1993, Nelson said he and Mittleman were $47,000 behind on their payments to De La Hoya. In November, they paid $15,000, which put them on schedule, with $800,000 of the $1-million bonus having been paid.

"There were times we were behind," acknowledged Nelson, "but with their knowledge and approval."

As the managers had promised, considerable non-boxing income was generated. De La Hoya made a TV commercial for MCI that paid him six figures. There was an endorsement of B.U.M. sportswear guaranteeing $100,000 over the first year, $150,000 for the second year, and a $50,000 bonus if he won a world title. A somewhat smaller deal was signed with Champion footwear. Then there was a $200,000 deal with Lorimar, who wanted to produce a movie about De La Hoya's life. According to Nelson, the project fell apart when De La Hoya and his father signed a separate deal, for a promised $1-million, with another production company. Nelson felt the offer wasn't legitimate and recommended against it, but he says the fighter signed anyway. As of this writing, no movies are in production.

From a boxing standpoint, it is difficult to fault Nelson and Mittleman. They made no mistakes, working with Arum to carefully build De La Hoya's record and maximize his exposure. All of his bouts have been televised, and with the exception of an embarrassing knockdown suffered against Narciso Valenzuela in his most recent outing, De La Hoya has overwhelmed all of his opponents.

"How did we mismanage him?" Mittleman asked in a *Los Angeles Times* story. "By getting him to 11-0 and getting him a multimillion-dollar HBO contract? He's making these things up now."

The days leading up to the cancellation of De La Hoya's heavily hyped New York debut bordered on the macabre. Shortly after Mittleman moved from New York to Los Angeles, De La Hoya attempted to restrain his managers from his presence because of "physical harassment." After hearing presentations from both sides, a Los Angeles Superior Court judge refused to sign the restraining order.

According to various reports, De La Hoya felt Mittleman moved to L.A. so he could influence Joel De La Hoya, with whom he had grown close. Moreover, the fighter felt Nelson and Mittleman had infiltrated every aspect of his life.

A turning point came when Nelson and Mittleman hired former lightweight champion Carlos Ortiz to work with Alcazar. After four pressure-filled sessions, De La Hoya fired Ortiz.

"Alcazar called me and told me Oscar was getting beat up in the gym," said Arum. "Then Oscar called and told me to do what I had to do to get rid of [Ortiz]."

Nelson said Ortiz had been the choice of Joel De La Hoya. He was to receive two percent of Alcaraz' earnings in non-title bouts and one percent in world title fights.

While the developments of December painted a picture of De La Hoya as a confused, if not immature, young man, the fighter remained hopeful.

"I'm young, my career is just beginning," he said. "I'm kind of like a seed ready to bloom. I wanted to have it all straightened out before it all starts. My career is going to go into entertainment, into commercials, into everything, the movie business. It's going to blast off like a rocket, go up into the stars."

Maybe it will. But what about De La Hoya's image? Has it been irreparably damaged?

Even Arum can't seem to make up his mind.

"I think the harm can be incalcuable, especially at this point," he told the *Los Angeles Times*. "If he was an established superstar, then you could brush your way through any of these things. But he isn't ... "

Only a few days later, Arum told THE RING, "It doesn't help, it's not positive, but ultimately the public doesn't care. Let him win a couple of titles and people will forget about all this."

So is it Golddigger, Golden Boy, or a little of

each? At this point, it's both safe and soothing to limit a conclusion to the following: At least the kid can fight. ■

Garcia

(Continued from page 27)

tilt with Henry Armstrong the following year, but again the bigger, stronger fighter failed to come through. After seven rounds it was his fight to lose, and, as was the trend, Garcia did just that despite having stunned Armstrong with a bolo in the seventh. For some reason Garcia didn't sense the kill. Armstrong shook off the blow and, in the words of boxing writer Joe Williams, "proceeded to kick the daylights out of his bigger opponent."

The winner and still champion ... Henry Armstrong. Garcia was running out of opportunities, and the press was running out of patience. Wrote Williams the day after the event: "So, despite all the things Garcia did, he shouldn't have been an outrage. He didn't deserve to win it and he never will."

Ouch. But Williams was right. Garcia would never win the welterweight title. In fact, he should have never fought for it in the first place. What were he and his manager, George Parnassus, thinking? Garcia was a middleweight, and it took the Armstrong loss to open their eyes.

***

The sugar cane grows tall as far as the eyes can see in the Philippines. For Garcia, the stalks were his first opponent. At an early age, standing side by side with his father, Ceferino worked the fields, chopping stalk day after day. Old Man Garcia was a legend in Manila. His ability to cut a stalk in half with one swing of the bolo knife was known throughout the land. Buses often stopped by the Garcia place so tourists could catch a glimpse of the old man at work.

Though boxing was never the topic of conversation underneath the hot sun, Garcia was taking his first steps toward the ring. Swinging that heavy knife in a manner that was a cross between a right hook and an uppercut, Garcia was developing the muscles that would lead to one of the most devastating punches in boxing. Many opponents would feel the sting of the bolo and go down like a stalk of sugar cane.

His final step toward the ring came on those nights when the old man hit the town. It was Ceferino who was sent to bring his father home, and on more than one occasion he was needed to help Dad fight his way out of a scrap.

Like most of his countrymen, Garcia followed the exploits of Villa, who had left Manila for the States and returned as the world champion. Garcia had been impressed by the welcome accorded Villa, and the memory of the festivities stayed fresh in his mind.

In the summer of 1925, Villa returned home for good, having died in San Francisco from blood poisoning. Thousands of Filipinos, Garcia included, turned out to view the champion's body lying in state. Only 15 at the time, Garcia made a vow that he would fight to keep: "I'll carry on for him. Do even bigger things."

Garcia soon entered the ring as a strapping welterweight with a powerful right. He earned $1.50 for his first bout, but his reputation grew with each opponent who succumbed to the bolo. It wasn't long before he was the reigning welterweight champion of the Philippines, and at the urging of Jesus Cortez, a countryman who became his manager and trainer, Garcia headed for the States, where, he had been told, the rings were paved with gold.

Garcia landed in San Francisco and became an instant hit, both in and out of the ring. Fed a steady diet of tomato cans, his record and reputation began to grow. Large contingents of Filipinos showed up everywhere he fought. The bolo became the talk of the game; fighters tried to duplicate the punch or, at the very least, find a defense.

The good times were short-lived. Upon arriving on the West Coast, Garcia developed a love for fast cars. His considerable earnings helped support the habit, but only for a short time. Garcia would buy one car, and before he could pay it off he'd buy another. He had traded roadwork for a roadster, and in short time his boxing began to suffer. He started losing, with opponents finding the skin above his eyes easy targets for cuts.

Once hailed as the future of the welterweight division, Garcia was now a mess. "Go home," he was told. "Go back to the sugar cane. At least the stalks don't hit back."

Cortez washed his hands of the fighter. But Parnassus, a Phoenix businessman with a stable of boxers, took a liking to Garcia. It was assumed Parnassus had an interest in hard-luck cases; every fighter under his direction was in a slump. Parnassus decided to take a chance. It turned out to be the break Garcia needed.

Parnassus got Garcia back in the gym, straightened out his finances, and hired a trainer, Johnny Villaflor, who would also serve as Garcia's driver. No way Parnassus wanted Garcia

(Continued on page 60)

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Garcia

(Continued from page 59)

behind the wheel of a car. His love for speed had been well-documented by the California highway patrol.

Although Garcia appeared to be back on track, he had trouble getting fights. Boxing writers had grown cold toward the happy-go-lucky Filipino and played a role in holding him back. He eventually landed a catch-weight fight with Ross in September 1935. Though he lost a 10-round decision, Garcia sent Ross to the canvas. Just like that, his career had been resurrected.

Garcia was for real, the writers decided, and he fought and won often enough to soon become the number-one contender for Ross' welterweight crown. The two were rematched at New York's Polo Grounds on the Carnival of Champions card. Garcia again lost a decision, but he dished out such a beating that he put an end to the popular theory that Ross was unbeatable. In fact, within a year Ross would lose the title to Armstrong and retire.

By this time, Armstrong, whose hobby was collecting title belts, had won the featherweight, lightweight, and welterweight titles. He decided to make his first 147-pound defense against Garcia, and many picked the challenger to win. Because of the 5'7" Garcia's physical advantages, it was thought that Armstrong had finally been overmatched.

The two fought at Madison Square Garden in November 1938. Garcia was riding a nine-bout winning streak, which included eight kayos, but he couldn't finish off Armstrong and lost a 15-round decision. Close, but no crown.

Parnassus finally came to grips with reality. Garcia was a middleweight fighting as a welter. Dropping weight before a fight was just plain stupid. Garcia moved up, won his next nine fights, and landed a bout with Apostoli for the middleweight title.

As the Yankees braced for the Reds and Fordham prepared for Alabama, Garcia readied himself for the title and what he hoped would be a joyous trip home. He even had his new wife, the former Evangeline Gerger, make the travel arrangements.

The bout was scheduled for 15 rounds, but for the only time in six career title fights, Garcia failed to go the distance. He didn't need to. He sent Apostoli to the canvas three times in the seventh round. On the day after the fight, a photo of a dejected and beaten Apostoli, down on one knee, appeared in all the New York papers. The former champ tried to rise, but referee Billy Cavanaugh wrapped his arms around the Californian and declared Garcia the winner.

The fight was almost a carbon copy of the Garcia-Armstrong bout the year before, only with the roles reversed. It was Garcia who was in trouble early; in the sixth round Apostoli took control, forcing Garcia to the ropes and working on the challenger's head and face. Though Apostoli lost the round for hitting on the break, it seemed the end was near. But in the seventh Garcia charged out of his corner and let fly with a lightning-like barrage of lefts and rights. Stunned by the assault, Apostoli stood motionless. Garcia didn't even have to use the bolo.

"Garcia hit me harder than anybody I ever fought," Apostoli said afterward.

Wrote Jack Mahon in the New York *Daily News*, "Garcia proved in outgaming a great, game battler that he is one of the real punchers in modern ringdom. The only guy with a wallop outside of Joe Louis. Ceferino is the Louis of the smaller men."

Garcia had little time to ponder the comparison. "Now I go home to see my people," he said.

The hero's welcome was waiting as Garcia arrived in Manila. A national holiday was his. The festivities lasted for several days, and Garcia added to the circus by defending the title in Manila, knocking out Glenn Lee in the 13th round just two days before Christmas.

In March 1940, Garcia returned to his second home, California, and risked the title against Armstrong, who was aiming at his fourth belt *(see sidebar)*. It was a bloody fight, one in which Armstrong tried everything, both inside and outside the rules, to bring down Garcia. It was suggested afterward by Villaflor that Armstrong should have worn seven boxing gloves: "A pair for his hands, his shoulders, and his elbows, and one for his head."

Referee George Blake ordered the two fighters to shake hands before the start of the 10th round, but they ignored the request and immediately traded blows. When it was over, Blake left the ring, leaving the decision in doubt. Upon resurfacing, he declared the bout a draw, claiming Armstrong's fouling cost him the title. It was guessed, but never stated, that Blake felt Garcia hadn't done enough to deserve the victory.

Garcia's inability to once again hold off Armstrong brought a new wave of criticism from the press and boxing establishment. Garcia was good, it was concluded, but not quite g enough.

Ken Overlin lifted Garcia's title with a round decision just two months after Armstrong affair. Garcia hung around until 19 when he lost a 10-round decision to Wild McDowell in Houston. His career record stood 88-25-9 (62). He was elected to THE RING Hall Fame in 1977, and died on New Year's Day 19 in San Diego.

Given his short run as a champion, Garcia not remembered as one of the greate middleweights in history. In fact, the writers the time labeled him an underachiever. H people, however, hailed him as a true champion and one worthy of a hero's welcome and national holiday. And on that fall evening in Ne York City, when the sporting world w wondering who would pitch the Series opener f the Yankees and Fordham was favored to be Alabama, that's exactly what Garcia was fighting for.

Roger Mooney is a frequent contributor to THE RING. He lives in Port Charlotte, Florida and covers sports for the Charlotte Sun-Herald.

Brown

(Continued from page 31)

amends, Norris came out blazing in the second and Brown answered in kind. They swapped hard rights before Norris sprinted ahead with a spirited rally. He still looked confident, apparently fully recovered from the first-round knockdown. But he made the fatal mistake of standing his ground too long. Though Norris was outpunching his opponent three to one, Brown's blows carried far more weight, and late in the round a right to the temple wobbled the champion again.

Norris, 36-4 (22), stayed on the offensive in the third, banging away with pinpoint combinations. Brown absorbed everything unblinkingly and countered with vicious hooks that bit into Norris' ribs like ax blades.

"I noticed in the tapes that nobody went to his body," revealed Brown. "But I know my body shots made a big difference. A couple of times I heard him grunt."

It was a rousing, rock 'em-sock 'em round and Brown put the exclamation point on the session with a savage left-right-left to the head just before the bell. The way Norris staggered back to his corner, you would have thought

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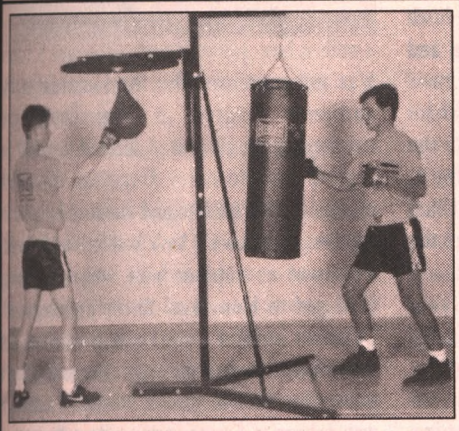

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Brown

(Continued from page 60)

somebody had slipped Quaaludes into his water bottle.

Brown, 40-2 (31), turned southpaw to start the fourth, but it wasn't long before both fighters dropped all pretense of boxing and tore into each other with everything at their disposal. It was definitely highlight-film material, and the crowd went crazy. As the round approached the one-minute mark, Brown uncorked an overhand right that drilled Norris in the back of the head, just above the neck line.

Norris went stiff before dropping like a steer under the slaughterhouse maul. He lay supine for several seconds, then rolled over and attempted to grope his way to his feet. He was still partly slumped over, arms dangling helplessly at his sides, when referee Guadalupe Garcia reached the count of 10. Norris' 44-month reign as champion came to an end 1:06 into the round.

"I abandoned my boxing skills and was trying to knock everybody out because, well, I was knocking everybody out," Norris told the *Philadelphia Daily News*. "I was trying to knock Simon Brown out right away. I didn't fight my fight at all."

"He definitely looked past me," Brown told *The Washington Post*. "He was thinking about millions of dollars down the line and not thinking about what was in front of him."

Brown held the welterweight title for approximately four years and made eight successful defenses. It's unlikely he'll enjoy as long a run the second time around, but it would be foolish to underestimate him. The last person to do that was Terry Norris, and he ended up counting stars instead of fighting like one.

It was unquestionably the merriest Christmas Brown and his family have enjoyed in several years. At first, Brown considered flying to his native Jamaica for the holiday, but when King added him to the January 29 card at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, he decided to stay home and return to training. Brown didn't need Scrooge to tell him the title wasn't a gift from Santa Claus. This Yuletide miracle was the result of old-fashioned hard work and one man's undying faith in himself. But come to think of it, that's the recipe for success at any time of the year.

Just ask George Bailey. He knows about it.

Hunsaker

(Continued from page 45)

was no question who the inmates in the audience wanted to win. Under the circumstances, Hunsaker decided it would be a good idea to carry Dejarhett for a few rounds. "If I'd hit him and knocked him out in the first round, we'd have had a riot," he says.

It was an outdoor bout, and the evening chill got to Hunsaker. In the eighth round Dejarhett hit him a couple of good shots and the referee stopped the fight. Hunsaker didn't holler, but he was all for it when a furlough was arranged for Dejarhett for a rematch a month later in Beckley, West Virginia.

"He told a few guys what he was going to do again to that chief of police," says Hunsaker. "I ran out and hit him three times and he was on the floor."

"I had an awful good left hook," Hunsaker says, but looking back on his 38-bout (36 wins, 26 by kayo) career, he admits, "What was in my favor the best was that I was a white man. It seems they always like to match a colored and white man."

Hunsaker says he had never heard of Cassius Clay (who became Muhammad Ali after he won the world title in 1964) when he was offered a career-high purse of $3,000 to be the first professional opponent of the 1960 Olympic light heavyweight champion in the latter's hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. He got his first look at the 18-year-old Clay in a Louisville sporting goods store where they'd sent Hunsaker to help promote the fight.

"He came in and swung a baseball bat and bounced a ball on the floor for a while," recalls Hunsaker. No words were exchanged and, says Hunsaker, "I think he was just scared to death seeing me in there."

That's no dig at the young Ali, for before every fight the veteran Hunsaker always went a few rounds with fear himself. "The first fight I had I was scared to death," he says. "The last fight I had I was scared to death. Every time I would get my hands wrapped I'd say to myself, 'Why in the world

are you getting yourself into stuff like this?' Unless you take some kind of drug, you're gonna be shook up before a fight. After I started fighting [in the ring], I'd forget all that stuff."

He still marvels at what happened that night in the Louisville Convention Center, painful as it was.

"I'd never dreamt a big man could move as fast as [Clay] did," he says. "I pulled every trick I'd learned in the pro ranks, and it didn't bother him. If I hadn't, who knows what he'd have done to me."

Did he ever reach the speedy Clay with the hook?

"He admitted I caught him with one left, and said he'd almost lost the hamburger he'd eaten that night," says Hunsaker, who muses after a pause, "I don't know why in the world he'd eat a hamburger before a fight."

Clay won a unanimous six-round decision. Hunsaker returned to Fayetteville with both eyes swollen shut, and he told a local judge who asked his opinion of Cassius Clay, "As soon as he's given the opportunity, he'll be world champion."

That fight made Tunney Hunsaker famous, but only after Muhammad Ali himself became one of the greatest fighters in history. The fight that put Hunsaker in newspaper headlines all over the world happened on April 6, 1962, and if he was scared to death entering the ring for it, he was even closer to that when they carried him out on a stretcher.

His opponent that night in Beckley was Joe "Shotgun" Sheldon, another journeyman. According to Hunsaker, who'd been saved at a church revival in Fayetteville right before the fight, "I'd been warned several times by God that I should quit fighting. I ignored it. Sometimes the best way to get your attention is to put you on your back."

Sheldon did that a couple of times, but Hunsaker got up and knocked him down twice. With just seconds left in the 10th round, Hunsaker was floored again and counted out. It was his third straight kayo defeat. He got up, and as the doctor was checking him in the corner, he collapsed. They took him by ambulance to a hospital in Bluefield, West Virginia.

Only days before, Benny Paret had died after being knocked out in a welterweight title fight by Emile Griffith. The press was full of outcries against boxing, and the Vatican condemned the sport as an immoral "massacre."

Before the Sheldon fight, when a reporter asked Hunsaker about the Paret case and the uproar it had incited, the heavyweight said, "You can get killed in a traffic accident just as easily."

Hunsaker's injury was similar to the one that had killed Paret. It was a brain hemorrhage, and Hunsaker underwent a two-hour emergency operation. He was in a coma and paralyzed on his right side. Forty-eight hours later, with his brain swelling again and Hunsaker still comatose, another brain operation was performed.

When they took him out of the operating room this time, the door wasn't open wide enough for the bed to go through. To the stunned surprise of the doctors, the hand that reached out and pushed it further open belonged to the newly conscious Hunsaker.

Hunsaker got all of $165 for his last fight, and "there wasn't a dime's worth of insurance on me." His medical bills, which amounted to several thousands of dollars, were paid by donations that came in from people all over the world who had read about him.

Thirty-one years later, Hunsaker says the only residual physical effects of that episode are that periodically "my right fingers feel like they're still asleep."

Life in Fayetteville is good. Hunsaker and his wife Pat, who calls herself "his manager and president of his fan club," are very active in church work. Hunsaker has taught Sunday school for eight years. Nowadays he weighs 180 pounds and stays in shape working a huge garden. He's got bad knees, but every year he still runs in a local six-mile charity event and, according to Pat, is "the only man who tries to make an Olympics out of it."

His retirement in February as chief of police was a big event, and not just because Hunsaker can now drink beer in public if he feels like it. Several hundred persons packed the banquet room at the Comfort Inn to salute their fighting chief, and among them was the man whose picture is proudly displayed in the Hunsaker home, and whose future the journeyman had so accurately predicted.

"He's a fabulous man," Hunsaker says of his friend for life, Muhammad Ali, whose career Hunsaker is happy to have personally gotten off on the right foot.

Keep those cards and letters coming. ■

Pete Ehrmann, a frequent contributor to* THE RING, *is a freelance writer based in West Allis, Wisconsin.

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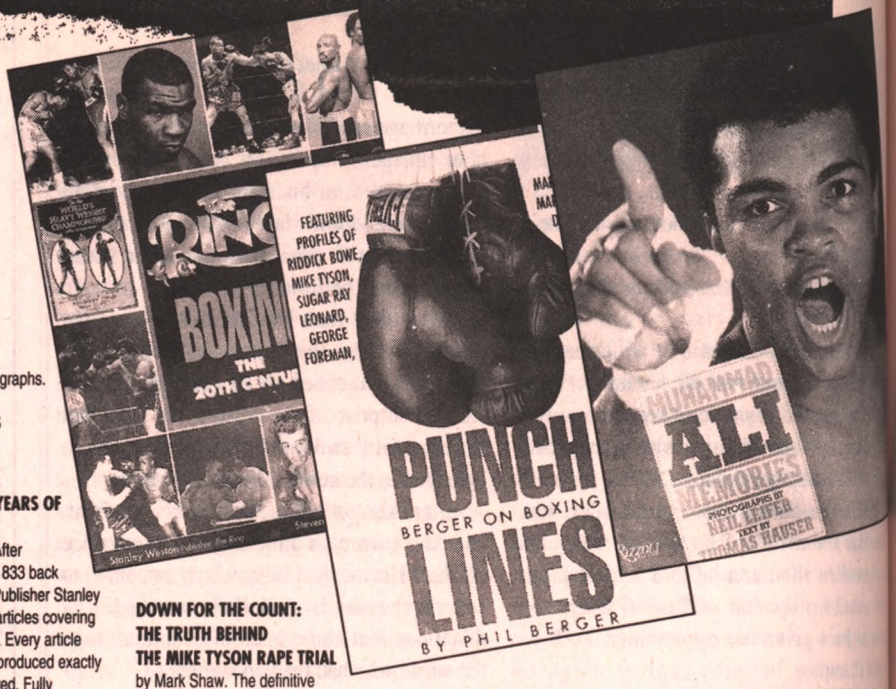

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Boxing Collector's Notebook

By Don Scott

One of the best ways to add to a collection is to participate in a major sports auction. Almost all sports auctions include boxing items. Auctions also provide a great opportunity to waste time and money. You just have to know what you're doing.

There are generally two types of auctions, live and telephone/mail bid. Live auctions are usually held in large hotel conference rooms in major cities and are well-publicized. It is the aim of the auction house to create an event in which folks with money get caught up in the rarefied air of competition and spend more than planned. Regardless, you can find some excellent buys if you check your testosterone at the door and let your brain take over.

With major live auctions scheduled for this spring, we'll start with some tips, which may also apply to phone/mail auctions. By the way, live auctions rarely require your physical presence. They usually include provisions for telephone and advance mail bids.

•**Do Your Homework:** Find out all you can about the items you want to bid on. Get a catalogue as early as possible and ask as many questions as you need to. When inquiring, never indicate the depth of your interest. Ask for a complete description, especially concerning condition. For equipment, ask for details about provenance. (For instance, who says the robe was actually worn by the fighter listed in the catalogue?) Find out what the house's policy is regarding returns. In most cases, sales are final, unless you can prove a lack of authenticity or improper description.

•**Decide What The Item Is Worth To You:** Do this *before* the auction. If estimated values are given, do not confuse these with minimum bids. Do not expect absurdly low bids to be accepted. Remember, all that really matters is what an item is worth to *you*. And never exceed your maximum.

•**Make Arrangements To Bid:** If you are attending the auction, go to the preview and study the items you're interested in. Register and get a bidder number. If you're going to bid by phone, most companies will call you just before your item comes up—usually at your expense. Bid until you win or hit your maximum. Auction houses add a percentage to winning bids as their take. Find out beforehand what that percentage is.

•**Never Let Anyone Know How High You Will Bid:** This seemingly needs no explanation. So how come so many folks talk anyway?

Regarding phone auctions: Unlike live auctions, everything is up for bid at once. You're told the highest bid on your item. Then you decide whether to go higher. These auctions almost always have a closing time that is extended by the phrase "or until the phone has stopped ringing for 10 minutes." This allows for sneaky bidding and rewards those willing to spend lots on a phone bill and stay awake until two or three in the morning. Some folks won't even give their first bid until midnight. Others will immediately give their best shot and go to bed. If you're going to dial, dial, and dial, do not bid too eagerly too early.

You should understand that anyone with a few items and a telephone can hold a phone auction. Some pretty rank amateurs get involved, which has its pluses and minuses. Such auctions can get sloppy, but also include some really good buys. Beware: Every now and then a shady character sets up shop. It helps if you know who you're dealing with.

In order to find out when and where auctions are being held, hobby publications such as *Sports Collectors Digest* or *Boxing Collector's News* carry ads announcing the details.

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Collectors' Alert: Several rare autographed pieces have recently been found to be forgeries. If you have autographs of one of the following greats and need assistance, photocopy the pieces and send them to me, care of THE RING, along with as much info as you can on how and when you obtained them and what history you can provide: Joe Gans, Stanley Ketchel (often signed "Young Ketchel"), Sam Langford, Marvin Hart, the original Joe Walcott, Peter Jackson, and George Dixon. ■

Don Scott is editor and publisher of Boxing Collector's News. He can be reached through THE RING.

Worldwide Ratings

WBC
as of November

WBA
as of November

IBF
as of November

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	3
Riddick Bowe (USA)	–	4	C
Oliver McCall (USA)	1	2	2
Michael Moorer (USA)	2	1	1
Tony Tucker (USA)	3	3	4
Lionel Butler (USA)	4	–	–
Alex Stewart (JAM)	5	8	–
Phil Jackson (USA)	6	7	–
Frank Bruno (GB)	7	12	9
Joe Hipp (USA)	8	–	–
Larry Holmes (USA)	9	–	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	10	10	12
Herbie Hide (GB)	–	5	7
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	–	6	–
Corrie Sanders (SA)	13	9	8
Bruce Seldon (USA)	12	–	5
George Foreman (USA)	–	–	6
Mike Hunter (USA)	14	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	C	1
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Nate Miller (USA)	1	4	2
Arthur Williams (USA)	2	1	4
Thomas Hearns (USA)	3	3	–
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	4	5	8
Massimiliano Duran (ITA)	5	12	–
Robert Daniels (USA)	6	6	10
Akim Tafer (FRA)	7	10	12
Kenny Keene (USA)	8	8	–
Jade Scott (USA)	9	–	7
Dennis Andries (GB)	10	–	–
Bobby Czyz (USA)	–	2	–
James Warring (USA)	–	7	–
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	26	9	6
Uriah Grant (USA)	30	–	3
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	–	5
Richard Mason (USA)	13	–	9

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Randall Yonker (USA)	1	6	–
Frank Tate (USA)	2	1	4
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	3	10	3
Mike McCallum (JAM)	4	–	6
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	5	9	1
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	6	3	10
Crawford Ashley (GB)	7	8	–
Charles Williams (USA)	8	–	2
Darius Michalczewski (POL)	9	7	5
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	10	4	7
Wang Sup Lee (KOR)	24	2	–
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	13	5	11
David Vedder (USA)	14	–	8
Anthony Hembrick (USA)	22	–	9

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	–	C	–
James Toney (USA)	–	–	C
Henry Wharton (GB)	1	7	7
Tim Littles (USA)	2	1	1
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	3	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	4	2	8
Tony Byrd (USA)	5	3	3
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	6	–	–
Ray Close (GB)	7	–	9
James Cook (GB)	8	9	–
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	9	–	12
Juan Carlos Gimenez (PAR)	10	–	–
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	16	4	11
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	–	5	5
Iran Barkley (USA)	–	6	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	–	8	–
Merqui Sosa (DR)	24	10	4
Steve Little (USA)	–	–	2
Tony Thornton (USA)	–	–	6
Mwehu Beya (ITA)	25	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerald McClellan (USA)	C	–	–
John David Jackson (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Lamar Parks (USA)	1	1	2a
Julian Jackson (VI)	2	7	6
Thomas Tate (USA)	3	–	2b
Otis Grant (CAN)	4	11	4
Frederic Seillier (FRA)	5	–	–
Steve Collins (IRE)	6	4	–
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	7	–	5
Roberto Duran (PAN)	8	9	–
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	9	–	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	10	2	9
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	11	3	3
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	5	11
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	19	6	10
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	23	8	–
Mike McCallum (JAM)	–	10	–
Manuel Medina (SPA)	–	–	7
Charles Brewer (USA)	21	–	8

IBF NUMBER ONE TO BE DETERMINED

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	–	–	C
Simon Brown (USA)	1	5	–
Stephen Martinez (USA)	2	–	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	3	6	2
Vincent Pettway (USA)	4	9	1
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	5	–	11
Yung Kil Chung (KOR)	6	2	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	7	–	–
Alain Bonnamie (CAN)	8	–	–
Ronald Wright (USA)	9	3	6
Julio C. Green (USA)	10	–	3
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	–	1	–
Aaron Davis (USA)	20	4	7
Curtis Summit (USA)	–	7	5
Bernard Razzano (FRA)	13	8	–
Juan Medina (DR)	–	10	–
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	–	–	4
Gilberto Barreto (COL)	–	–	8
Darrin Morris (USA)	15	–	9
Lupe Aquino (USA)	–	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Santos Cardona (PR)	1	–	–
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	2	2	1
Ike Quartey (GHA)	3	1	3
James McGirt (USA)	4	11	9
Oba Carr (USA)	5	–	4
Larry Barnes (USA)	6	6	2
Gary Jacobs (GB)	7	5	–
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	8	8	11
Jung Oh Park (KOR)	9	4	–
Luis Santana (USA)	10	–	–
Gert Jacobsen (DEN)	–	3	–
Freddy Ladd (USA)	–	7	–
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	22	9	–
Andrew Murray (GUY)	14	10	5
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	13	–	6
Kevin Pompey (USA)	12	–	7
Stephan Johnson (USA)	17	–	8
David Gonzalez (USA)	11	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	–	C	–
Charles Murray (USA)	–	–	C
Frankie Randall (USA)	1	1	2a
Valery Kayumba (ZAI)	2	–	–
David Kamau (USA)	3	–	–
Andy Holligan (GB)	4	7	4
Kostya Tszyu (RUS)	5	–	3
Terrence Alli (USA)	6	–	–
Hector Lopez (MEX)	7	8	–
Vincent Phillips (USA)	8	–	–
Greg Haugen (USA)	9	–	–
Tony Lopez (USA)	10	–	–
Christian Merle (FRA)	26	2	–
Alberto Cortes (ARG)	–	3	–
Jan Bergman (SA)	–	4	–
Edir Gonzalez (COL)	–	5	–
Loreto Garza (USA)	–	6	–
Hugo Pineda (COL)	14	9	12
Morris East (PHIL)	–	10	–
Rafael Pineda (COL)	–	–	2b
Pedro Sanchez (DR)	–	–	5
Rodney Moore (USA)	–	–	6
Pedro Padilla (COL)	–	–	7
Angel Hernandez (PR)	–	–	8
Darryll Tyson (USA)	15	–	9
Roger Mayweather (USA)	19	–	10

IBF NUMBER ONE TO BE DETERMINED

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
Nazarov Olzubek (JAP)	–	C	–
Fred Pendleton (USA)	–	–	C
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	1	7	1
Lavander Johnson (USA)	2	5	3
Shumba Mitchell (USA)	3	2	7
Jean Baptist Mendy (FRA)	4	4	4
Wilfrido Rocha (COL)	5	–	–
Ramon Marchena (MEX)	6	–	–
Miguel Julio (COL)	7	9	2
David Sample (USA)	8	–	–
Joey Gamache (USA)	9	1	12
Chad Broussard (USA)	10	–	–
Fabian Tejeda (ARG)	–	3	–
Dingaan Thobela (SA)	16	6	9
Tony Lopez (USA)	–	8	11
Eugene Burchak (RUS)	–	10	–
Eduardo Molina (COL)	26	12	5
Orlando Marimon (COL)	–	–	6
Mike Evgen (USA)	–	–	8
Carl Griffith (USA)	12	11	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	–	–
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	–	C	–
John-John Molina (PR)	–	–	C
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	1	5	4
Jesse Leija (USA)	2	–	–
Calvin Grove (USA)	3	12	3
Jacobin Yoma (FRA)	4	7	9
Regilio Tuur (HOLL)	5	–	10
Jimmy Garcia (COL)	6	–	–
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	7	4	5
Ed Hopson (USA)	8	–	6
Orlando Soto (PAN)	9	–	–
Tony Pep (CAN)	10	–	–
Marcos Guevara (VEN)	23	1	–
Jimmy Garcia (COL)	–	2	–
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	12	3	–
Harold Warren (USA)	–	6	–
Eun Shik Lee (KOR)	13	8	–
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	14	9	1
Lamar Murphy (USA)	–	10	–
Moises Pedroza (COL)	–	–	2
Bernard Taylor (USA)	–	–	7
Eugene Speed (USA)	11	–	8

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gregorio Vargas (MEX)	C	–	–
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Kevin Kelley (USA)	1	–	1
Cesar Soto (MEX)	2	–	–
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	3	3	–
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	4	7	6
Seiji Asakawa (JAP)	5	5	–
Ever Beleno (COL)	6	–	4
Chris Saguid (PHIL)	7	8	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	8	–	–
Francisco Segura (USA)	9	11	3
Tony Green (USA)	10	–	5
Luis Mendoza (COL)	–	1	–
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	–	2	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	–	4	2
Jesse Leija (USA)	–	6	–
Sean Murphy (GB)	–	9	–
Yamaki Gym (THAI)	–	10	–
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	–	–	7
Harold Warren (USA)	–	–	8
Billy Hardy (USA)	14	–	9
Stephane Haccoun (FRA)	16	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Tracy Patterson (USA)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	C	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	–	–	C
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	1	2	–
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	2	–	–
Julio Gervacio (DR)	3	–	3
Welcome Ncita (SA)	4	6	1
Freddy Cruz (DR)	5	–	–
Jesse Benavides (USA)	6	8	–
Yong Woon Park (KOR)	7	–	–
Jose Rincones (VEN)	8	9	6
Johnny Vasquez (USA)	9	–	–
Jose Badillo (PR)	10	–	–
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	–	1	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	22	3	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	–	4	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	17	5	–
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	–	7	–
Maui Diaz (USA)	27	10	5
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	2
Cesar Soto (MEX)	–	–	4
Jesus Salud (USA)	13	–	7
Cesar Polanco (DR)	25	–	8
Luis Mendoza (COL)	–	–	9
Rudy Zavala (USA)	11	12	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jung Il Byun (KOR)	C	–	–
Junior Jones (USA)	–	C	–
Orlando Canizales (USA)	–	–	C
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	1	–	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	2	1	6
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	3	2	–
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	4	12	–
Jorge Eliecer Julio (COL)	5	4	10
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	6	3	–
Dong Choon Lee (KOR)	7	–	–
Drew Docherty (GB)	8	–	–
Harold Mestre (COL)	9	–	2
Ruben Condori (ARG)	10	–	–
Eddie Cook (USA)	–	5	3
Abraham Torres (VEN)	30	6	9
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	7	–
Alfred Kotey (GHA)	–	8	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	28	9	–
Frank Toledo (USA)	–	10	–
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	1
Lauren Ramirez (SPA)	–	–	4
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	13	–	5
Derrick Whiteboy (SA)	–	–	7
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	–	–	8

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	C	–	–
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	–	C	–
Julio Borboa (MEX)	–	–	C
Marco A. Barrera (MEX)	1	–	6
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	2	6	–
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	3	–	–
Armando Salazar (MEX)	4	–	–
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	5	9	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	6	–	–
Alfred Kotey (GHA)	7	–	–
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	8	–	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	9	5	–
Jerry Penalosa (PHIL)	10	11	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	20	1	–
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	16	2	–
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	11	3	–
Ernesto Briceno (VEN)	–	4	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	7	–
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	27	8	–
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	–	10	–
San Sow Pleonchit (THAI)	–	–	1
Harold Gray (COL)	–	–	2
Robert Quiroga (USA)	23	–	3
Joel Luna (MEX)	–	–	4
Carlos Mercado (COL)	–	–	5
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	–	–	7
Rolando Pascua (PHIL)	19	–	8
John Johnson (USA)	17	–	9
Little Guns Pumar (PHIL)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
David Griman (VEN)	–	C	–
Phichit Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	–	C
Hugo Soto (ARG)	1	12	–
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	2	–	–
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	3	–	11
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	4	–	–
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	5	–	3
Chatchai Elite-Gym (THAI)	6	–	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	7	–	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	8	–	6
San Sow Pleonchit (THAI)	9	6	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	10	3	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	12	1	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	2	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	17	4	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	18	5	–
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	–	7	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	8	1
Chokchai Chorniwat (THAI)	28	9	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	10	–
Scotty Olson (USA)	–	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	24	–	4
Arthur Johnson (USA)	–	–	5
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	7
Robbie Regan (GB)	–	11	8
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	–	–	9
Alfred Kotey (GHA)	–	–	10

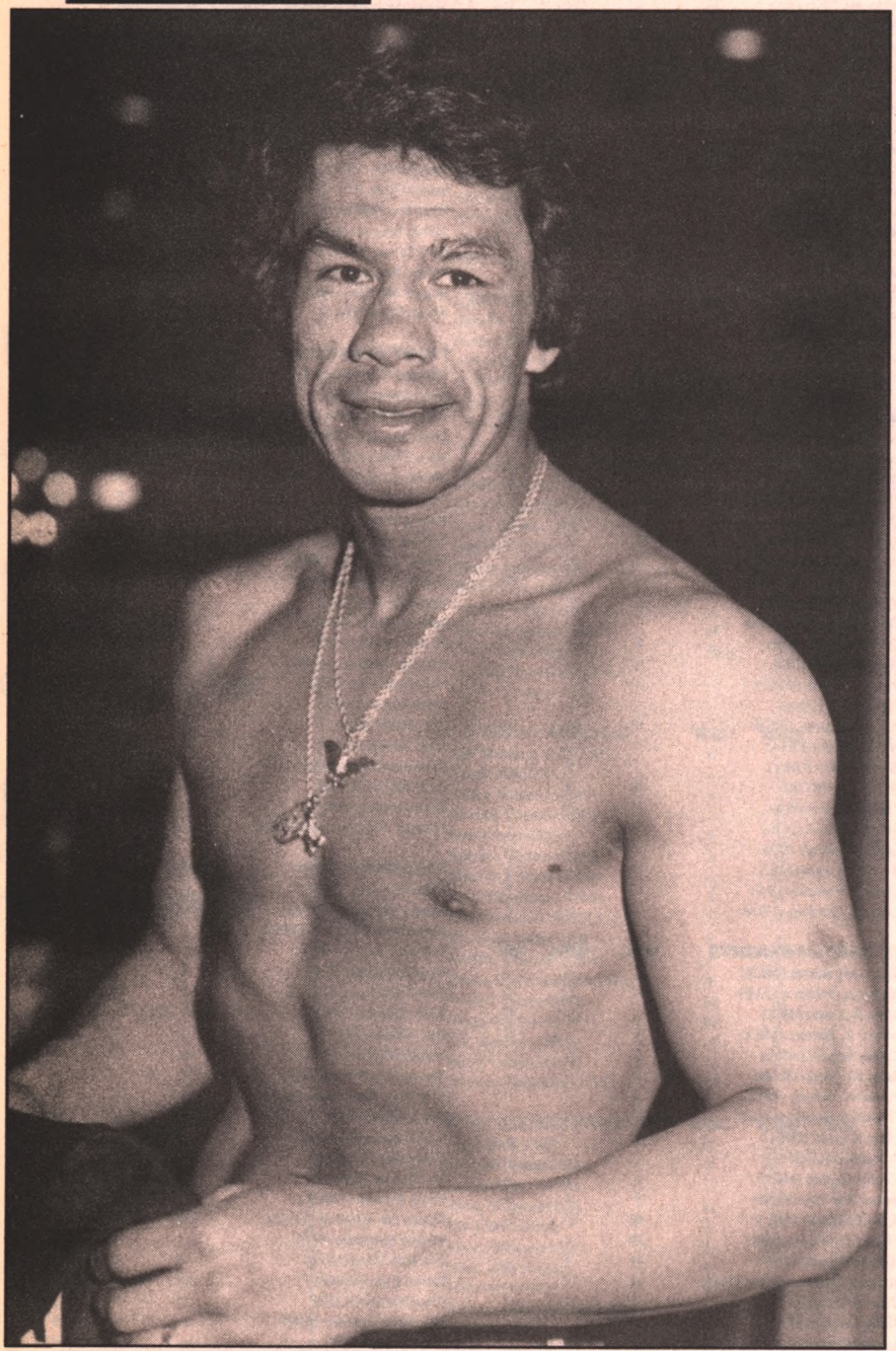
LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Michael Carbajal (USA)	C	–	C
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	C	–
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	1	7	5
Javier Varguez (MEX)	2	–	–
Jesus Chong (MEX)	3	8	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	4	9	10
Fahlan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	5	5	2
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	6	10	–
Enrique Orozco (MEX)	7	–	–
Victor Villanueva (MEX)	8	–	–
Narciso Rodriguez (DR)	9	–	–
Domingo Sosa (DR)	10	12	–
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	–	1	1
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	–	2	–
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	19	3	–
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	–	4	11
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	12	6	12
Eric Griffin (USA)	–	–	3
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	–	–	4
Robinson Cuesta (PAN)	–	–	6
Leon Salazar (PAN)	–	–	7
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	–	–	8
Pronchai Sithpraporom (THAI)	–	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	1	–	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	2	4	–
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	3	12	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	4	–	–
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	5	6	5
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	6	–	7
Myung Sup Park (KOR)	7	–	–
Toto Pow Phongasawang (THAI)	8	–	–
Eric Griffin (USA)	9	–	–
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	10	3	2
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	1	9
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	14	2	–
Puma Kanehira (MEX)	–	5	–
Saman Sor Jaturong (THAI)	12	7	–
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	–	8	–
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	11	9	–
Kusuo Eguchi (JAP)	22	10	–
Felix Naranjo (COL)	–	–	1
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	–	–	3
Rafael Torres (DR)	–	–	4
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	30	11	6
Ekawit Singhchatchawal (THAI)	–	–	8
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

From THE RING, September 1981

YAQUI LOPEZ:



CAN HE FIND ETERNAL HAPPINESS AS A CONTENDER?

By Mark Di Ionno

The crowd greeted him warmly as he stepped into the ring at Convention Hall, even though they had paid their money to see Michael Spinks.

At the same instant, television audiences across the nation were getting a look at him for the fifth time, and each of those five times, Yaqui Lopez was the opponent.

For Alvaro "Yaqui" Lopez, the fight with Michael Spinks was just another big fight in a long line of big fights. He understood that a win could possibly put him in line for a fifth light heavyweight title shot, while a loss might very well end his seven-year status as a top-10 contender. He also understood that he was brought to Atlantic City as a test for Spinks, a milestone fight to measure the progress of Spinks' young career. Having served as a barometer for other fighters, he also understood he was brought there to lose.

He did not fail them. For three rounds he fought with his heart in each fist, with the exuberance of a young fighter on the way up, but also with the controlled discipline of a man with 66 professional fights. For three rounds he beat

Michael Spinks. He backed Spinks up with combinations not learned in the amateur ranks, but in places like Copenhagen, Rome, Reno, Miami Beach, Philadelphia, Rahway State Prison, and, of course, Stockton, California.

Stockton is where Yaqui Lopez calls home. Outside of having the deepest inland port in the world, the northern California agricultural town has no other claims to fame—except for its penchant for the fight game.

Lopez carries the banner for Stockton, the flagship in a fleet of all those who ever laced up the gloves with a dream after spending the better hours of the day picking cherries, peaches, and apricots, driving farm equipment, working for the municipality, or laboring in the town's limited industry.

Benny Casing, his manager and trainer, Joe Guzman, Hank Pericle, and Jack Cruz, his father-in-law and adviser, have all lived that dream, and their involvement with Yaqui Lopez is an extension of their individual careers and, more importantly, their long friendship.

Guzman, Pericle, and Cruz were boyhood friends who learned to box under the guidance of Guzman's older brother Frank. Of the three, Guzman went the farthest as a pro, at one time fighting world-ranked lightweights.

One of the fighters Cruz came to work with was Benny Casing, a Filipino whose father brought him to the gym to learn to defend himself. Cruz sent the youngster into a corner to hit the heavybag, then inadvertently forgot about him. An hour later he suddenly remembered—and found Benny still punching furiously with both hands swollen.

Lopez came to the gym under different circumstances. Born in Mexico, Lopez was sent to Stockton at age 14 after his attempt at bullfighting ended in a clear-cut decision for the bull. The result was a shattered femur—and the fare to California to find a safer occupation. Lopez joined his father at the Eddie Mariligini Farm, harvesting crops of walnuts, apricots, peaches, and cherries.

When he was 18, a friend asked him for a lift to the Cruz household to visit Cruz' daughter Judy. While there, Lopez met one of Cruz' other daughters, Beatrice, and promptly fell in love with her.

He expressed an interest in boxing to Cruz, and went with him to the gym.

"Truthfully," said Cruz, reflecting on those early days, "Yaqui was the world's worst amateur. He had no natural moves, but he had the interest to learn and the guts to take his knocks along the way.

Lopez opened the eyes of WBA light heavyweight champion Victor Galindez during their two title fights (above is from September '77). But both bouts ended with Lopez raising the champion's hand (below is from May '78).

"We took him around fighting, and up in Eureka, about 400 miles from Stockton, we entered him in the Indian Golden Gloves. The fights were held on this reservation, and a lot of the Indians up there were drunk and getting pretty wild. Well, when Yaqui climbs in the ring, this guy leans over and says, 'Oh, yeah, what tribe?' Well, the only tribe I could think of was the Yaqui, so that's what I told him. So he passes it around and all the Indians start cheering like hell for him and chanting, 'Yaqui, Yaqui.'"

It is that shrewdness that has gotten Lopez four shots at the title, even though Cruz, a cabinet-maker by trade, shrugs off his efforts.

"We've been very fortunate," he says. "You might say we've been in the right place at the

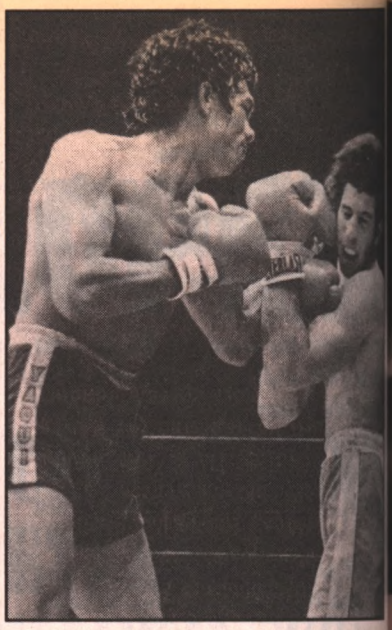
right time, and the opportunities keep coming."

Despite dropping three title decisions, one to John Conteh in October 1976, and two others to Victor Galindez in 1977 and '78, and losing by knockout to reigning WBC champion Matthew Saad Muhammad a year ago, Lopez continues to resurface. The reason: Each of his efforts is simply gallant. A boxer-puncher, he fights with a manic determination, punching to the end, almost trance-like, unaware of the punishment received.

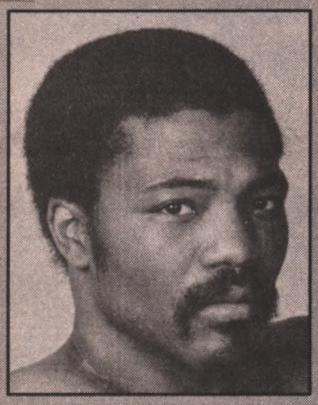
In all three losses by decision, many observers felt that Lopez had won the fights. His second loss to Galindez was described by one boxing writer as the worst robbery he had ever seen.

"We should have postponed the fight anyway," said Cruz. "Three weeks before the fight, Yaqui fell into a ditch at work and pulled all the tendons around his ankle. He couldn't walk, much less fight. But we were afraid that if we asked for a postponement, they'd give the shot to somebody else. Remember, Yaqui had given Galindez hell the first time around. Anyway, we went to see a sports medicine specialist and he gave Yaqui this cast he could wear in the ring.

"Well, goddamn it, Yaqui fought the best fight of his life that night. After the fight, the TV people came over and told us to stand by—they wanted to interview the new light heavyweight champ—but I looked over and saw some of the judges re-adding their cards. I started to get a bad feeling. Then they announced the decision and the Italians started jeering like hell. I tried to



Every time he seems on the verge of falling out of contention, Lopez rebounds with a major win. In March 1978 at the Garden, he kayoed hot contender Mike Rossman in six rounds.



Aaron Pryor

THE RING RATINGS, *September 1981*

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Larry Holmes, Easton, PA**

1. **Mike Weaver***, Los Angeles, CA
2. **Gerry Cooney**, Huntington, NY
3. **Michael Dokes**, Akron, OH
4. **Greg Page**, Louisville, KY
5. **Leon Spinks**, St. Louis, MO
6. **Gerrie Coetzee**, South Africa
7. **Trevor Berbick**, Canada
8. **James (Quick) Tillis**, Chicago, IL
9. **Marty Monroe**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **John Tate**, Knoxville, TN

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Matthew Saad Muhammad, Philadelphia, PA**

1. **Eddie Mustafa Muhammad***, Brooklyn, NY
2. **Michael Spinks**, St. Louis, MO
3. **Jerry Martin**, Philadelphia, PA
4. **James Scott**, Rahway, NJ
5. **Carlos DeLeon**, Puerto Rico
6. **Marvin Johnson**, Indianapolis, IN
7. **Yaqui Lopez**, Stockton, CA
8. **Dwight Braxton**, Philadelphia, PA
9. **Marvin Camel**, Missoula, MT
10. **Mustapha Wasajja**, Denmark

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Marvin Hagler, Brockton, MA

1. **Mustafa Hamsho**, Syria
2. **Alan Minter**, England
3. **Wilford Scypion**, New York, NY
4. **Vito Antuofermo**, Brooklyn, NY
5. **Fulgencio Obelmejias**, Venezuela
6. **Frank Fletcher**, Philadelphia, PA
7. **Dwight Davison**, Detroit, MI
8. **Curtis Parker**, Philadelphia, PA
9. **Robbie Epps**, Clovis, NM
10. **Tony Sibson**, England

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ray Leonard*, Palmer Park, MD

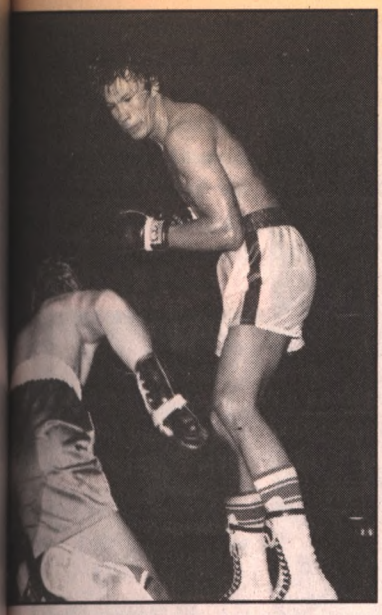
1. **Wilfred Benitez****, Puerto Rico
2. **Ayub Kalule**, Uganda
3. **Maurice Hope**, England
4. **Carlos Herrera**, Argentina
5. **Tony Ayala Jr.**, San Antonio, TX
6. **Charlie Weir**, South Africa
7. **Walter Gomez**, Argentina
8. **Kenny Bristol**, Guyana
9. **Nino Gonzalez**, Bayonne, NJ
10. **Gary Guiden**, Muncie, IN

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ray Leonard, Palmer Park, MD**

1. **Thomas Hearns***, Detroit, MI
2. **Pipino Cuevas**, Mexico
3. **Roberto Duran**, Panama
4. **Randy Shields**, N. Hollywood, CA
5. **Pete Ranzany**, Sacramento, CA
6. **Adolfo Viruet**, Hoboken, NJ
7. **Luis Primera**, Venezuela
8. **Bruce Finch**, Milwaukee, WI
9. **Milton McCrory**, Detroit, MI
10. **Babs McCarthy**, Sacramento, CA

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Aaron Pryor*, Cincinnati, OH

1. **Saoul Mamby****, New York, NY
2. **Jo Kimpuani**, France
3. **Dujuan Johnson**, Detroit, MI
4. **Miguel Montilla**, Dominican Republic
5. **Lennox Blackmoore**, Guyana
6. **Domingo Ayala**, Puerto Rico
7. **Bruce Curry**, Ft. Worth, TX



Lopez has engaged in several memorable wars, but when he topped Mike Quarry in May 1975 in Stockton, he showed only minimal scar tissue.

protest, but everybody stopped understanding English. I figured the hell with it ... I knew we'd be back."

They came back against Matthew Saad Muhammad in what was THE RING's Fight of the Year for 1980. Lopez went for the elusive title with everything he had. He took control in the second round and clung to it until the 10th. In the eighth round he backed Muhammad into the ropes and ripped a dozen unanswered punches to the champion's already-bloody face. The referee watched closely, seemingly ready to stop the fight. But Muhammad's inhuman resilience and uncanny sense of survival pulled him through. He dropped the leg-weary Lopez four times in the 14th round before the fight was rightfully halted.

As he was leaving the ring after the fourth greatest disappointment in his life, Lopez displayed his priorities. He scooped his son, Yaqui Jr., out of his wife's arms, kissed him on the cheek, and carried him out of the arena. Ten minutes later, still holding the boy, Lopez received a standing ovation from the press corps in a crowded interview room. Those same reporters had to wait nearly an hour and a half to get to talk to Saad Muhammad.

Despite his failure to win the crown, Lopez refuses to allow himself to become embittered. He keeps his career in perspective, and believes harder work will bring more success. He has moved up into the cruiserweight ranks, hoping that added weight will improve his stamina and provide more punching power. Since the Spinks

8. Monroe Brooks, Los Angeles, CA
9. Willie Rodriguez, Allentown, PA
10. Leroy Haley, Las Vegas, NV

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Alexis Arguello, Coral Gables, FL**

1. Sean O'Grady*, Oklahoma City, OK
2. Hilmer Kenty, Detroit, MI
3. Aaron Pryor, Cincinnati, OH
4. Jim Watt, Scotland
5. Rodolfo Gonzalez, Mexico
6. Howard Davis Jr., Glen Cove, NY
7. Claude Noel, Trinidad
8. Roberto Elizondo, Corpus Christi, TX
9. Ernesto Espana, Venezuela
10. Gonzallo Montellano, Los Angeles, CA

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Samuel Serrano*, Puerto Rico

1. Cornelius Boza-Edwards**, England
2. Rafael (Bazooka) Limon, Mexico
3. Bobby Chacon, Pacoima, CA
4. Yasutsune Uehara, Japan
5. Idelfonso Bethelmy, Venezuela
6. Leonel Hernandez, Venezuela
7. Rolando Navarette, Honolulu, HI
8. Johnny Sato, Stockton, CA
9. Carlos Pinango, Venezuela
10. John Verderosa, Staten Island, NY

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Salvador Sanchez, Mexico**

1. Eusebio Pedroza*, Panama
2. Wilfredo Gomez, Puerto Rico
3. Rocky Lockridge, Paterson, NJ
4. Gustavo Salgado, Mexico
5. Edwin Rosario, Puerto Rico
6. Ruben Castillo, Bakersfield, CA
7. Juan LaPorte, New York, NY
8. Patrick Ford, Guyana
9. Mario Miranda, Colombia
10. Pat Cowdell, England

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Wilfredo Gomez, Puerto Rico**

1. Sergio Palma*, Argentina
2. Ricardo Cardona, Colombia
3. Leo Cruz, Dominican Republic
4. Mike Ayala, New York, NY
5. Carmelo Negron, New York, NY
6. Nicky Perez, Tucson, AZ
7. Jaime Garza, Los Angeles, CA
8. Juan (Kid) Meza, Los Angeles, CA
9. Jose Caba, Dominican Republic
10. Soon Hyun Chung, South Korea

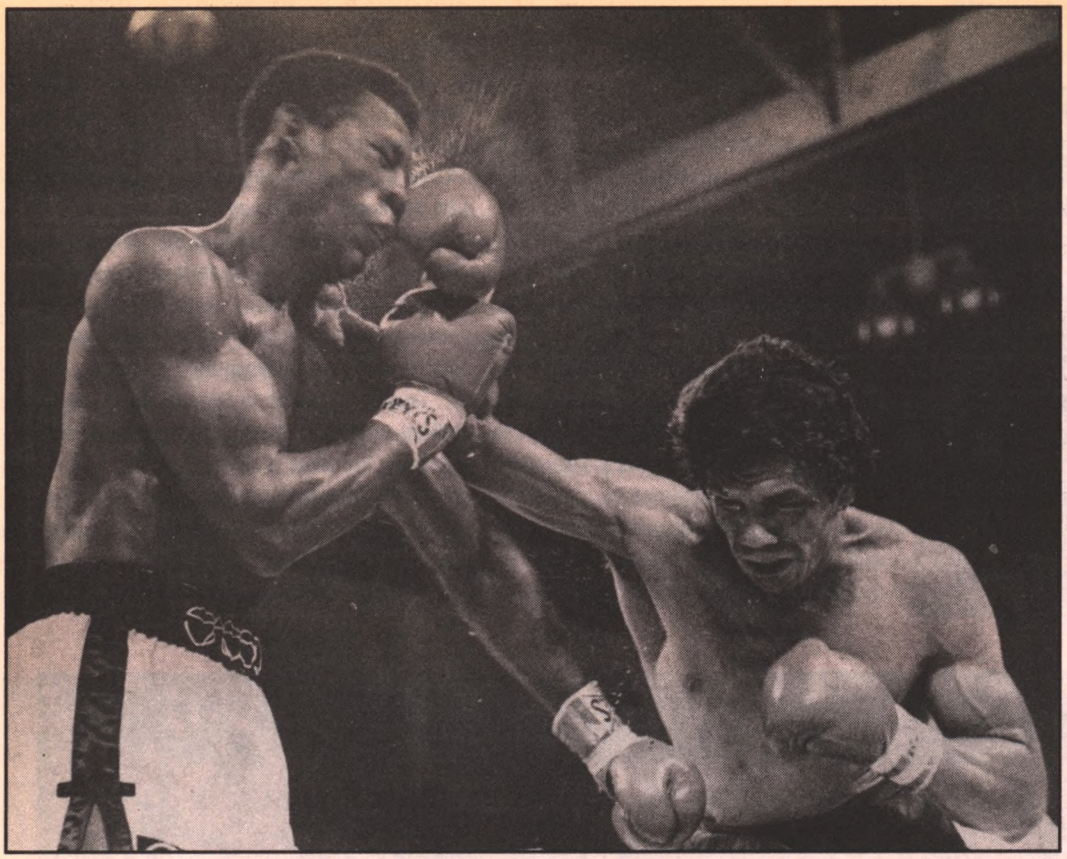
BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Jeff Chandler*, Philadelphia, PA

1. Lupe Pintor**, Mexico
2. Julian Solis, Puerto Rico
3. Albert Davila, Los Angeles, CA
4. Jorge Lujan, Panama
5. Eijiro Murata, Japan
6. Roberto Rubaldino, Mexico
7. Oscar Muniz, Los Angeles, CA
8. Jose R. Narvaez, Argentina
9. Norberto Cabrera, Mexico
10. Chul Ho Kim, South Korea

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Antonio Avelar, Mexico**

1. Hilario Zapata, Panama
2. Pedro Flores, Mexico
3. Yoko Gushiken, Japan
4. Betulio Gonzalez, Venezuela
5. Willie Jensen, Las Vegas, NV
6. Luis Ibarra*, Panama
7. Santos Laciar, Argentina
8. Charlie Magri, England
9. Gustavo Ballas, Argentina
10. Peter Mathebula, South Africa

WBA Champion *
WBC Champion **



Lopez never came closer to winning a world title than in July 1980, when he nearly stopped WBC light heavyweight champion Matthew Saad Muhammad before succumbing in the 14th round. It was proclaimed as the Fight of the Year.

fight he has stopped three opponents, including a heavyweight. He works on his legs, running like a horse through mountains outside of Carson City. To Lopez, life is work. When not training he works as a laborer with an asphalt company.

His dream is to win a world title, and that dream has taken the small circle of friends that make up his corner to places they might never have been otherwise. More importantly, it has cemented the lifelong friendship between the cornermen. They often stay together in the same hotel room while on the road, and the atmosphere is like that of a frat house. Cigarette butts and beer cans litter the room, finding their place among the fight equipment. As Yaqui sleeps soundly in another room, shared with his wife and oldest child, the cornermen stay up and talk for hours about the old days in Stockton, the new days in Stockton, and the people from Stockton. Though all in their 50s, they still possess an irresistible childlike urge for pranks. Joe Guzman, a retired fireman with long silver hair combed straight back, places a handful of ice on Benny Casing's chest while he sleeps. Casing empties a full ashtray on the carpet because he knows Hank Pericle can't stand the mess and will eventually clean it up. And then there is the endless stream of one-liners from Cruz, a man who knows more jokes than Morey Amsterdam. The men are an integral part of their fighter's professional and personal life.

It is hard to say who rubs off on whom, Pericle, a youthful, handsome man, spends the most time with Lopez. He supervises his training in Carson City and is the fighter's biggest supporter.

"The thing with Yaqui is that he's such a nice guy," said Pericle. "But goddamn if he doesn't have the worst luck! You'd like to see a guy like him win the title. A good family man, a hard worker, just a good guy to be around. So many of these other guys who've had as much success as Yaqui forget everybody but themselves. But hell! Yaqui's out there visiting grammar schools in the area, telling the kids if they try their best, and keep trying, they can do whatever they want. You know, go as far as they want.

"They had a Yaqui Lopez Day at a baseball stadium in Mexico, and he must've shook everybody's hand in the stadium. After the Spinks fight, we talked him into going to this postfight party because he was feeling so bad. You should have seen the people all over him, shaking his hand telling him how great he was, handing him their busines cards. Everywhere he goes it like that. He makes friend everywhere. People are willing to extend themselves to a g like Yaqui. I know it sound crazy, but I really feel honore to be connected with him."

Lopez put Pericle's loyalty to the ultimate test before the Spinks fight. He undressed to get ready and discovered he had forgotten the jockey shorts he wears under the protective apparatus.

"Hey, Hank," Yaqui said, a warm smile spreading across his face. "Everyone else wears boxer shorts except you, so let me have your underwear."

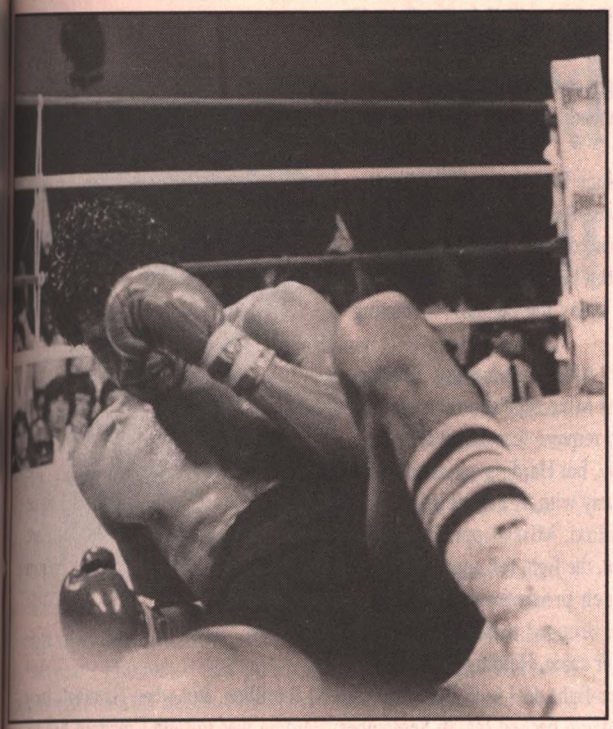
Pericle stripped down and handed them over. Sacrifice everything for the cause.

Yaqui Lopez plods on. The feeling in the press is that he has had it, that his legs are gone, that he has fallen from the ranks of legitimate contenders, which, of course, depends on your definition of legitimate. Lopez has fought the toughest opponents in his division, and a review of his record looks like a roll call of the decade's light heavyweight hall of fame. He has lost some big ones and has won some big ones. Each time they said he was finished he would go back to work and try harder. He would put together a string of impressive wins, impressive enough so that the matchmakers and promoters could not ignore him in good conscience. Since losing to Spinks, Lopez has stopped four opponents and has signed for a tentative date to meet ST Gordon for the NABF cruiserweight title.

He has fought everyone they told him to fight. Everyone who wanted to fight him. And some who didn't. He fought the late Victor Galindez all of 30 tough rounds, back when Galindez was still Galindez. He traded punches and blood stains with Matthew Saad Muhammad for a total of 25 rounds over two fights. He fought Jesse Burnett four times, splitting the series. He took a beating from James Scott in a prison ring small enough to stage a cock-fight and in an environment the champs won't touch. He gave young Mike Rossman a lesson one night at the Garden, leaving him bloody and reeling and sorry for all the derogatory things he had

said about Mexicans.

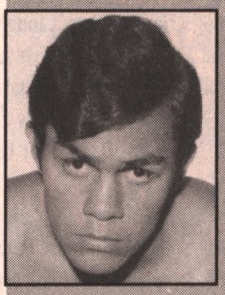
He has always given them a fight with his blood and guts. He has fought with his head and his heart, absorbing punishment to both. The times he was knocked down, he came back up, as if to say, "Yes, you can knock me down, you can hit me some more, you can stack the deck against me, you can bring your own judges, you can tell them over the television to root for the other guy, you can even tell them that I am finished. But none of all that matters, because I am Yaqui Lopez. And I promise you, I will be back." ■



Lopez has been knocked down and out, but when he picks himself up, his devoted cornermen offer unwavering friendship and support.

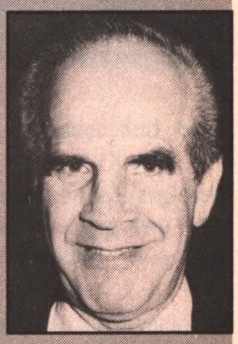
THE RING, September 1981

The Cover: Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas Hearns are two of the best fighters in the world. They also happen to be co-holders of the welterweight title. In September, they'll battle in a unification bout at Caesars Palace. The showdown will be not only one of the most anticipated matchups of the year, but in 147-pound title fight history.



Latin Challenge: In an open letter to Roberto Duran, manager Rafael Mendoza, on behalf of former world champion Pipino Cuevas, issues a challenge to fight for what he calls the Latin welterweight title. "Let's just fight," he says. As it would turn out, Cuevas and Duran wouldn't clash until 1983, with "Manos De Piedra" winning by fourth-round kayo.

Duff's Got The Stuff: British journalist and TV analyst Reg Gutteridge profiles Mickey Duff, whom he describes as "undeniably the most influential figure on the current British boxing scene." The son of a Polish rabbi, Duff, now 52, became a matchmaker at age 16 and a promoter at 20. He's among the most successful British fight figures of the century.



New Faces: One hit and one miss. Featured are welterweight Marlon Starling (pictured) and junior featherweight Diego Rosario. While Starling, 18-0 (11), would twice win the world title, Rosario would never recover from a controversial October 1981 points loss to Johnny "Dancing Machine" Carter.

Fighter Of The Month: Alexis Arguello earns the honors by winning the WBC lightweight title via unanimous 15-round decision over Jim Watt. "I lost my crown to a great fighter and a gentleman," said Watt. The victory made Arguello a triple-crown champion; he formerly held the featherweight and junior lightweight titles.

Looking Ahead

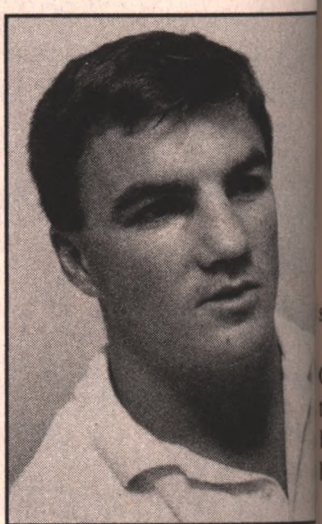
By Steve Farhood

THE INVISIBLE CHAMP

In the case of WBC light heavyweight champion Jeff Harding, we have to look back before we can look ahead. Looking back, however, made us dizzy.

Australia's Harding hasn't fought since December 1992. His next bout will be a mandatory defense against Randall Yonker. Manager Don Majeski hopes the bout will take place on the undercard of Nigel Benn-Henry Wharton on February 21. But he doesn't dare count on it because in 1993, he learned just how crazy the business of boxing can be.

The story, according to Majeski: After outpointing Vedder, Harding was to defend in March against Mike McCallum for a purse of $400,000. Instead, he had surgery to remove scar tissue above his eyes. The bout was rescheduled for May, but Harding canceled. ("He said he wasn't ready. How did he get away with it? I don't know.") In June, the fighters were to clash in Biloxi, Mississippi. But when French TV, the chief sponsor, pulled out, the fight fell apart.



Harding: Inactive in '93

Harding then signed with a French promoter to fight Eric Nicoletta for $300,000. The offer was dropped to $200,000—and accepted. When a $15,000 advance never came, Harding pulled out.

In July, Harding was offered a three-fight deal with Bob Arum for $1.9-million. But when Harding's lawyer made several changes in the contract, Arum backed off. In September, Harding was to fight Crawford Ashley in England. When no TV date could be secured, the fight was pushed to October. Then promoter Frank Warren encountered financial problems, which killed the fight.

In October, Harding was offered a three-fight deal with Don King for $1.1-million. Harding gave Majeski the green light, but then signed a deal with Australia-based manager Paul Hotz and promoter Cedric Kushner—$900,000 for four fights. At the WBC convention in December, Majeski's contract, which doesn't expire until June 1995, was upheld.

(Exhale)

Harding-Yonker will be promoted by King, who won a purse bid—$401,500 to Kushner's $400,000. At the convention, the 37-year-old McCallum (remember him?) stated his case, pointing out that he had signed to fight Harding no less than three times. The WBC ruled that the winner of Harding-Yonker would have to fight him next.

Make a Xerox of this page and, if you ever dream about being a fight manager, refer to it.

Nelson: Ready to try the lightweights

LISTEN UP...

Regardless of the outcome of WBC super featherweight champion Azumah Nelson's defense against Jesse James Leija, "The Professor" will challenge WBC lightweight king Miguel Angel Gonzalez on March 5 ... WBC super flyweight champion Jose Luis Bueno will make a voluntary defense before clashing with unbeaten and highly touted countryman Marco Antonio Barrera ... It's official: Heavyweight Michael Bentt will face unbeaten Briton Herbie Hide on March 19 in England.

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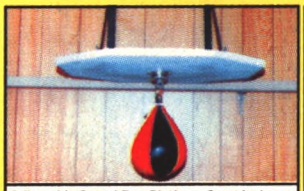

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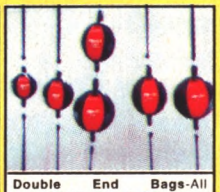

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